THE

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report.)

EIGHTH SESSION.

1922.

VOLUME VIII.

(July 3rd to 7th and 10th to 13th, 1922.)

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1922

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble VICTOR ALEXANDER GEORGE ROBERT BULWER-LYTTON, Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon'ble SIR BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, Vice-President, in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Land Revenue.
2. Land Acquisition.
3. Forests.
4. Irrigation.
5. Excluded areas.

The Hon'ble SIR JOHN KERR, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Finance.
2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and reserved Industrial subjects.
4. Marine.

The Hon'ble SIR ABD-ER-RAHIM, Kt., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Judicial.
2. Jails.
3. Emigration.
4. Immigration.
5. Jurisdiction.

The Hon'ble MR. H. L. STEPHENSON, C.S.I., C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Appointment.
2. Political.
3. Police.
4. Ecclesiastical.
5. European Education.

MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, Kt., in charge of the following portfolios:—

Local Self-Government and Public Health.

The Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolio:—

Education.

The Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

Agriculture and Public Works.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. COTTON, C.I.E.

DEPUTY-PRESIDENT.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY.

Secretary to the Council—C. TINDALL, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Deputy Secretary—A. M. HUTCHISON.

Assistant Secretary to the Council—K. N. MAJUMDAR.

Registrar to the Council—J. W. MCKAY.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Mr. M. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]
Ali Maulvi Syed Muksood. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Munshi Amir. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Munshi Ayub. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

B

Band, Mr. R. N. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath. [Minister, 24-Parganas Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barton, Mr. H. (Anglo-Indian).
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra. (Nominated Non-Official—Labouring Classes.)
Bose, Mr. S. M. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]

C

Carey, Mr. W. L. (Indian Mining Association.)
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]

Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Minister, Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Cohen, Mr. D. J. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Colvin, Mr. G. L. (Bengal Chamber of Cammerce.)
Crawford, Mr. T. C. (Indian Tea Association.)
Currie, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

D

Das, Babu Bhismadev. (Nominated Non-official—Depressed Classes.)
Das, Mr. S. R. [Calcutta North-West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
De, Babu Fanindralal. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
deLisle, Mr. J. A. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
Donald, Mr. J. (Nominated Official.)
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan. [Calcutta North Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Duval, Mr. H. P. (Nominated Official.)

E

Emerson, Mr. T. (Nominated Official.)

F

Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
French, Mr. F. C. (Nominated Official.)

G

Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Mr. D. C. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder. (Calcutta University.)
Goode, Mr. S. W. (Nominated Official.)

H

Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M. (Nominated Official.)
Huntingford, Mr. G. T. (Nominated Official.)
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Hussain, Maulvi Md. Madassur. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John. (Member, Executive Council.)
Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad. (Nominated Non-Official.)
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. Ershad Ali. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

L

Lang, Mr. J. (Nominated Official.)
Larmour, Mr. F. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Law, Raja Reshee Case. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

M

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble. (Member, Executive Council.)
Makramali, Munshi. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
McAlpin, Mr. M. C. (Nominated Official.)

Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. (Minister, Presidency Landholders.)
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Morgan, Mr. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Muir, Mr. R. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon. [Hooghly Municipalities (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukherji, Professor S. C. (Nominated Non-Official—The Indian Christian Community.)
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

N

Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

P

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Parrott, Mr. Percy.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram. (Bengal Marwari Association.)
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R. (Nominated Official.)
Pugh, Colonel A. J. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

R

Rae, Mr. W. R. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
Raheem, Mr. Abdur. (Nominated Non-Official.)
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abdur-. (Member, Executive Council.)
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [Deputy-President, 24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor. (Dacca Landholders.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra. (Nominated Non-Official—Labouring Classes.)
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. J. N. (Nominated Official.)
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Skinner, Mr. H. E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Spry, Mr. H. E. (Nominated Official.)
Stark, Mr. H. A. (Anglo-Indian.)
Stephenson, Mr. H. L. (Member, Executive Council.)
Suhrawardy, Dr. A. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Swan, Mr. J. A. L. (Nominated Official.)

T

Travers, Mr. W. L. [Rajshahi (European).]

W

Walsh, Mr. C. P. (Nominated Official.)
Wilson, Lt.-Col. R. P. (Nominated Official.)
[illegible], Mr. W. C. (Nominated Official.)

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Eighth Session.)

VOLUME VIII.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 3rd July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President, in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 102 nominated and elected members.

Panel of Chairmen.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): Gentlemen, in accordance with the provisions of rule 3 of the Bengal Legislative Council, 1920, the following members are nominated to form a panel of four Chairmen, *viz.*, Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, Mr. Langford James, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq. Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Council during my absence.

Letters from Mr. E. S. Montagu and Mrs. Robinson.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, the Secretary to the Council has received the following letter from Mr. Montagu:—

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th April and would be glad if you would convey to the Bengal Legislative Council my heart-felt appreciation of the resolution which you forward to me and my best wishes for the future.

Yours truly,

S. MONTAGU."

I would also like to read the following extract from a letter received by the Secretary from Mrs. Robinson:—

"This tribute to my dear husband touched me deeply and if it would be in order I would like to thank the members for their kind message of sympathy to us in our terrible sorrow."

At this stage the Registrar to the Council announced to the Deputy-President that His Excellency the Governor was without.

The Deputy-President then left his seat on the *dais* and met His Excellency at the door of the Chamber. His Excellency then entered the Chamber with the Deputy-President and, at the request of the Deputy-President, took his seat on the Presidential Chair, the Deputy-President being seated on His Excellency's right.

His Excellency the Governor's address.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR of BENGAL (the Earl of Lytton): DEPUTY-PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—I have not been long enough in the country, nor have I yet the experience to justify me in making to you anything in the nature of a general survey of the economic or political conditions of the country. Nor have I come here to-day to make to you a general review of the work of the session which now awaits you. But there are three specific problems to which since I assumed office I have given my personal attention and in connection with which certain provisional decisions have already been taken. It is my wish to take this opportunity of acquainting you with those decisions, but, gentlemen, before I come to these matters I wish to say how extremely sorry I am that the long illness of your late President, to which I referred when I last addressed you, should have compelled him to tender his resignation. In the circumstances I had no option but to accept it, though I did so with the greatest possible reluctance. I desire now to express my sympathy with the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda in having to retire through illness and with this Council in losing a President whom they so greatly respected and who, I understand, was popular with all sections of this Council. A resolution is to be moved at the beginning of your business which will enable the Council in its corporate capacity to express its appreciation of the late President's services and its regret at being obliged to lose him. I have said these few words to show that I desire also to be associated with the object of that resolution.

The first of the three subjects, gentlemen, to which I am going to refer is the use which I have made of the responsibility imposed upon me by section 72D of the Government of India Act in respect of certain demands for grants which were rejected by the Council last session. In the speech which I made when proroguing the Council at the end of March I explained that I felt bound to exercise my powers

under that section to restore certain small sums because I found that part of the expenditure covered by the rejected demand had already been incurred by Government who were, therefore, obliged to fulfil the obligations which they had contracted, for instance, clerks had been engaged and their salaries had to be paid. Under any system this would have been necessary. Supposing that no power of restoration of the grant existed and that instead this Government had resigned, it would have been the first duty of any Government which succeeded them to obtain the necessary authority to defray the liabilities which had been incurred in all good faith by their predecessors. Since I last addressed you I have made limited use of this power of restoration in two cases and I desire to explain what I have done in order that you may understand how I regard my responsibility in this matter.

The first case is that of the proposals for strengthening the Calcutta Mounted Police which were rejected by the Council by a majority of one—the narrowest possible majority—and in circumstances which I am told were not fully understood. There appeared to me, therefore, to be a considerable element of doubt as to whether that vote really represented the considered view of this Council. I might in the circumstances have decided the question myself and restored the grant. I did not do so. I preferred that this Council should have an opportunity of reconsidering the matter themselves and I only desired to preserve an opportunity for ascertaining what were the real wishes of the Council in the matter. I therefore certified such a sum only as was necessary to maintain the additional force in existence up to the end of July, that is, until after the reassembling of the Council. The demand for the further expenses required for the remainder of the year will be submitted to you. I hope that when you hear the arguments that will be adduced, you will accept the proposals and vote the amount required, but I wish to make it quite clear that I do not intend again to exercise my power of restoration with regard to this item and I shall abide by the decision of the Council whatever it may be.

The other case was one in which I was not entirely my own master, namely, the vote for the paper book department of the Calcutta High Court. The High Court, gentlemen, as you know, is administered by the Government of India, whilst the Government of Bengal have to provide funds for its expenses—an anomalous position on which I will not comment on this occasion beyond pointing out that so long as that position remains, the Government of India are able to give me instructions regarding the provision of funds for the High Court and they did in fact instruct me to restore the vote which was rejected last session. Here again, however, I preferred to give the Council an opportunity of reconsidering their previous decision, and I have therefore only certified as yet the amount required to maintain the Department in

existence until the present time. I very much hope that you will agree, when the case is resubmitted to you, to provide the funds required for its continuance until the end of the year.

Having made this personal explanation of a matter which is entirely within my own discretion, I turn now to two other subjects which are the concern of my Government as a whole.

In one of the addresses that was presented to me on my arrival in Calcutta, reference was made to the increase in the cost of the administration resulting from the introduction of the reforms and anxiety was expressed lest the political changes which were introduced by the Act of 1919 might become unpopular if they were associated in the minds of the people with increased taxation. I assured the deputation in my reply that I shared their anxiety and that I would devote my attention specially to this all-important question of finance. It was a problem, gentlemen, with which I was only too familiar because it was one which had been causing great anxiety and great perplexity to the Government of which I was a member at home. Indeed, I doubt if there is a Government in the world at the present moment which is not perplexed by the same problem. Remembering, however, that the British Government had derived very real and valuable help from the Retrenchment Committee which they had appointed and knowing that the tax-payers of Great Britain had good cause to be grateful for the labours of Sir Eric Geddes and his colleagues, I suggested to my colleagues in this Government that similar advantages might possibly result from the appointment of a similar committee here. This, let me say, was long before I had heard of the appointment by the Government of India of the Retrenchment Committee over which Lord Inchcape is to preside. I pointed out to my colleagues that in the last session this Council had accepted the taxation which they had proposed and in this way rendered them very valuable assistance in meeting the financial difficulties in which they found themselves last winter, and I suggested that having got through those immediate difficulties it would be a right and proper thing for them to admit a full and searching inquiry into the expenditure of their administration by an impartial and expert committee with a view to saving money, if possible, which might either be devoted to the pressing need of administrative reforms or would at any rate obviate the necessity of still further taxation in the immediate future. I am glad to say that I found that my colleagues were fully ready to adopt the suggestion I made to them and the committee which will be presided over by Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji was the result. We are very greatly indebted to Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji for undertaking the chairmanship of this committee. The invitation to him to serve on Lord Inchcape's Committee came subsequently and although he felt it his duty to accept that invitation, he very kindly, and with great public spirit, agreed to abide by his promise to me and to shoulder this double burden.

I sincerely hope that though the field for retrenchment in this province may not be large, some really useful economies will be effected as the result of their labours. I ought, however, to put in one word of caution. It is a popular delusion in all countries that Governments love spending money and that the people love saving it. The fact is that economy, though generally very loudly advocated in theory, is unpopular in practice, whether in domestic or public affairs. Economy means doing without things and that is something which none of us like. The very people who criticise Government for spending money in one direction generally clamour that it should spend even more money in another direction and so every one wants at the same time two irreconcilable objects, namely, reduction of taxation and the expenditure of public money in the direction of his own choice. Our Retrenchment Committee is not going to make that any more possible in the future than it has been in the past. All that Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji and his colleagues can do is to tell Government, the Members of this Council, and the general public, that certain services at the present time involve expenditure of such a sum and that the abolition of certain posts, the alteration of certain methods of administration would result in the saving of such another sum. All that they can do in this respect—I think it is the only thing that they can do which is not open to the public—they can question and cross-examine members of the Government as to the necessity for every post, as to the justification for every method of administration, as to what in their opinion will be the result of changes which they may suggest in their report. When they have done that, it will be for the Government, in consultation with this Council, to decide what they think we can agree to do without and what they think we can afford to keep. Now I have merely said these few words of caution because it is generally supposed that a Retrenchment Committee is some patent device for reducing expenditure and I thought it well to make it clear that all that such a committee can do and does do by its investigation, its comments and its advice is to popularise the information on which the Executive with the help of the Legislature have to decide what the expenditure of the country ought to be.

Gentlemen, this question of finance may fairly be described as the test of the health of a State, and I turn now to another subject which might be described, in this province at any rate, as an index of the health, or perhaps I ought to say the ill-health, of the population—I mean the scourge of malaria. The statistics regarding the ravages of this disease and its effect upon the social, industrial and economic life of the people are indeed startling and appalling when they are first revealed. This terrible evil was referred to in many of the addresses which were presented to me on my arrival and the problem of how to grapple with it has occupied my attention continuously in the last

three months. I have had long and frequent discussions with my Hon'ble colleague who is responsible for the administration of the Department of Local Self-Government and Health and also with Dr. Bentley, the Director of Public Health. They have informed me of the anti-malarial operations already in progress and of others which are in contemplation. I gathered in my first interview with Dr. Bentley that in his opinion the efforts of Government in their anti-malarial policy in the past had been too exclusively directed to draining areas where water was stagnant and too little to restoring the flow where it had been interrupted and thus, as happens annually in Eastern Bengal, providing an effective flushing out of the districts where the mosquito breeds. By an alteration in policy—by what he regarded as a more enlightened policy, he hoped to accomplish three things— to serve at the same time the needs of the population for drinking water, of agriculture for irrigation and of the public health by washing out the malaria-carrying mosquito. Gentlemen, I do not propose to discuss these theories on this occasion. I only refer to them to indicate how helpless the Government is in such a matter unless when it comes to this Council and asks for funds for remedial measures it can be assured that such measures are going to be beneficial, for without such assurance money may be wasted and harm even may be done. Unfortunately in dealing with this disease of malaria, there is no known sovereign remedy. We are still in the stage of speculation, of research and of experiment and if we had crores of rupees at our disposal we should not yet be certain what will be the best way of spending them. In the circumstances I suggested to my Minister that we should establish a special Department of a few experts whose function it would be study all the known or all the suggested means of fighting malaria, whether preventive or curative, and to advise Government upon them. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea at once accepted the suggestion and has already acted upon it. This Department, of which no doubt he will give you further details will not involve any appreciable increase of expenditure. He merely proposes to detail Dr. Bentley to devote the whole of his time to the study of this subject and to relieve him of the other more routine duties of his office. Dr. Bentley will be assisted in this work by six of the existing Assistant Directors of Public Health who like himself will in future devote the whole of their time to matters connected with the fighting of malaria. Gentlemen, I do not wish to be over-sanguine or to raise expectations which may not be fulfilled. I know well enough the difficulties of this problem but from this concentration of effort and study which will be effected by the small administrative change we do hope to accomplish two things—(1) a more rapid progress in our anti-malarial campaign, and (2) greater certainty as to the value of the measures which we adopt. Although this experiment has only just been decided upon, I thought that this Council might be interested to hear about it.

In conclusion, gentlemen, let me wish you all success in the work of the session which will now commence.

His Excellency then left the Chamber preceded by the Deputy-President.

(On the return of the Deputy-President.)

Oaths.

The following members took an oath of their allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. J. DONALD.
Mr. M. C. McALPIN.
Mr. T. EMERSON.
Mr. J. N. ROY.

Certificates under section 72D of the Government of India Act.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): I beg to lay on the table three certificates granted by His Excellency the Governor under section 72D of the Government of India Act. His Excellency has already discussed the reasons for granting these certificates. I need not say anything further on the subject.

(1)

EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF PAPER BOOK DEPARTMENT

Whereas the Government of India have sanctioned the retention of the Paper Book Department of the High Court up to the end of the financial year 1921-22 pending final orders, and whereas the Bengal Legislative Council has refused its assent to a demand for a grant of Rs 50,000 for that department for the year 1922-23 under the head "24.—Administration of Justice," I hereby certify, under the proviso (*a*) of section 72D (*2*) of the Government of India Act, that the expenditure of Rs. 4,000, being the amount payable on account of the salaries and allowances of the officers and establishment of the department for the month of March, 1922, is essential for the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

The 4th April, 1922.

(2)

EXPENDITURE UNDER HEAD "26.—POLICE."

Whereas the Bengal Legislative Council has refused its assent to a demand for Rs. 1,00,000, in respect of "Police Force—Calcutta Police" under the head "26.—Police," I hereby certify, under proviso (*a*) to section 72D (*2*) of the

Government of India Act, that for the above purpose the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 37,762 is essential for the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

The 6th April, 1922.

(3)

EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF STAFF FOR PAPER BOOK DEPARTMENT.

Whereas the Government of India have directed that the staff now employed in the Paper Book Department of the High Court shall be maintained until the advisability of retaining the present arrangements as a permanent measure has been definitely decided, and whereas it has become necessary, therefore, to restore such portion, as is required for this purpose, of the demand for a grant of Rs. 50,000 for that department for the year 1922-23 under the head "24.—Administration of Justice," which was refused by the Bengal Legislative Council, I hereby certify, under proviso (*a*) of section 72D (*2*) of the Government of India Act, that the expenditure of Rs 12,000, being the amount payable on account of the salaries and allowances of the officers and establishment of the department for the months of April, May, and June, 1922, is essential for the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

The 18th May, 1922.

Appointment of new President.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SIRCAR: I should like to rise to a point of order. His Excellency has just now announced that the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda has resigned the presidentship of this Council but he has not announced whether any President has been appointed. Without a President being appointed, the Council cannot proceed.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Well, as a matter of fact, Mr. Cotton has been appointed as President and he is now on leave. He has written to me to say that he will be here on the 5th of November.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask whether it is in order to be on leave before joining the appointment? (Laughter.)

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Persons dealt with under special criminal enactments.

***1. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how many persons, and in what districts of Bengal, were dealt with under the notifications issued under the special criminal

enactments, *viz.*, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911, since their inauguration up to the end of December, 1921;

(*ii*) how many were arrested and how many of them were imprisoned after trial;

(*iii*) how many were released—

(*a*) before trial,

(*b*) on trial,

(*c*) on the expiry of the full terms of imprisonment, and

(*d*) before the expiry of the full term; and

(*iv*) how many are still under detention—

(*a*) pending trial, and

(*b*) after trial?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): A statement giving the information available for the period indicated is placed on the Library table. There were no arrests or prosecutions under the Seditious Meetings Act, 1911.

Political arrests.

***11. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of persons arrested and convicted in each district of Bengal from the 18th November, 1921, to the 11th February, 1922, for violating the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908, and the Seditious Meetings Act of 1911;

(*ii*) the number of these persons who have been released;

(*iii*) the number of persons arrested and convicted in Calcutta from the 18th November, 1921, to the 11th February, 1922, for violating the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, as also the notification issued by the Commissioner of Police prohibiting meetings and processions; and

(*iv*) the number of such persons who have been released?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: A statement showing the information available is laid on the table. There were no arrests under the Seditious Meetings Act.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. II, showing number of persons arrested under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, including number convicted, discharged, or released by Government, during the period 18th November, 1921, to 10th February, 1922.

District.	Number arrested.	Number convicted.	Number discharged.	Number released by Government before expiry of their sentence.	Number whose sentences were reduced by Government.
Calcutta	6,551	3,132	968	1,950*	831
Faridpur	646	435	113	159	...
Bakarganj ...	104	41	2	1	...
Mymensingh ...	309	192	36	4	...
Dacca	448	300	42	74	...
Howrah	282	260	6	...	...
Birbhum	10	4	5	...	...
Burdwan	39	...	...	...	...
Midnapore	5	4	1	...	...
Rajshahi	10	7	...	...	...
Bogra	115	64	1	...	...
Dinajpur	2	...	...	...	...
Rangpur	336	296	33	9	...
Pabna	80	...	8	1	...
24-Parganas ...	202	52	35	...	...
Jessore	3	...	3	...	...
Nadia	30	...	5	...	...
Chittagong	610	488	84	69	...
Tippera	52	7	19	2	...
Noakhali	60	...	4	2	...

* All juvenile prisoners under the age of 16 years were also released from the Alipore and Presidency Jails. Their number is not known.

NOTE.—No arrests were made in the other districts.

Supply of drinking water for Pabna town.

***III. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the town of Pabna is suffering from want of a supply of filtered drinking water and bathing tanks?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what progress has been made up till now by the Pabna Municipality towards the construction of the Pabna Water-Works?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount—

(*i*) required for the proposed water-works project, and

(*ii*) promised or raised from the—

(*1*) public,

(*2*) zamindars, and

(*3*) District Board of Pabna?

(*d*) What amount, if any, have the Government sanctioned for the water-works scheme?

(*e*) If no amount has been sanctioned, are the Government considering the desirability of sanctioning any amount? If so, when is it proposed to make the allotment?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-Government (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative so far as the supply of filtered water is concerned. Government have no information about bathing tanks.

(*b*) Government accorded administrative approval in 1916 to a sketch project for the water-supply of the Pabna Municipality at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,65,000. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, now proposes to modify the scheme and reduce its cost by basing the supply on a boring for which provision is made in the supplementary estimates.

(*c*) (*i*) The amount of the original estimate was Rs. 1,65,000.

(*ii*) (*1*) and (*2*) Public subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 50,000 are expected.

(*3*) The District Board agreed to contribute Rs. 30,000.

(*d*) Nothing has yet been sanctioned but the proposals for financing the original scheme included a Government contribution of Rs. 80,000.

(*e*) The matter will be settled when the result of the boring is known and the detailed plan and estimates are prepared and submitted through the Sanitary Board.

Pabna protective works.

***IV. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the eddy which has suddenly formed at the eastern extremity of the Pabna protective revetment and which is gradually deepening?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that most of the Government buildings lying opposite to the eastern extremity of the revetment are exposed to danger from erosion?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many yards intervene between the river Padma and the streamlet Icchamati at the eastern extremity of the revetment;

(*ii*) whether a junction between the two is apprehended at this extremity; and if so, what measures are the Government contemplating adopting during the year 1922-23 to prevent this threatened junction?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Pabna protective works have been badly damaged in many places during the last rains?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to repair the damaged parts of the protective works; and

(*ii*) what amounts have been allotted during the financial year 1922-23 for the purpose or what allotments are proposed in this connection?

(*f*) Has the Hon'ble the Minister received any representations from the Chairman, Pabna Municipality, and the people of Pabna, calling his attention to the threatening state which the river has suddenly assumed and urging upon him to take immediate measures to check the further progress of the eddy which has formed and extend the revetment by at least a few hundred chains at its both ends to prevent the danger to which the town of Pabna is exposed from the erosion?

(*g*) If so, what action, if any, is proposed to be taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes. The eddy referred to was observed first at the beginning of March. In the beginning of June, it was reported that there was then no eddy and that the current was not directed against this point of the river bank.

(*b*) The Government buildings are exposed to no greater danger at the present time than in 1920 when measures for the protection of the river bank against further erosion were carried out.

(*c*) (*i*) One hundred and nine yards.

(*ii*) No.

(*d*) Attention is invited to my speech in reply to a resolution moved by Maulvi Shah Abdur Rauf at a meeting of this Council on 22nd February, 1922, in which I stated that floods, subsequent to the construction of protective works, including the floods of 1921, had damaged the protective works but not to a greater extent than might be expected.

(*e*) (*i*) The repairs which it was announced, in my speech referred to, would be undertaken, have been carried out and completed.

(*ii*) The estimated cost of the repairs and restoration which have been undertaken, *viz.*, Rs. 33,200 has been provided in the current year's budget and has been made available for expenditure.

(*f*) Yes, the last representations were received in March, 1922.

(*g*) Government have decided that, in view of present circumstances and in accordance with the advice received from their expert officers, it is unnecessary to extend the revetment or undertake further work at present.

Public Health Department and its publicity branch.

***V. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of officers of the Public Health Department with their respective qualifications and remunerations?

(*b*) Are these appointments permanent and graded?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making the publicity branch permanent?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*c*) For the present Government are of opinion that the establishment for the publicity branch attached to the Public Health Department should remain on a temporary basis.

Reduction in the staff of District Magistrates owing to transfer of certain duties.

***VI. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state in which of the districts the District Magistrates have been relieved of their duty of hearing the appeals from the decisions of second and third class magistrates?

(*b*) What reductions, if any, in the staff of the officers have been or are being made on this account?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) In the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Midnapore, Bakarganj and the 24-Parganas, appeals from the decisions of second and third class magistrates are heard by the Additional District Magistrates, and in the districts of Murshidabad, Jessore and Khulna by deputy magistrates specially empowered in that behalf.

(*b*) No reductions in staff have been or are being made on this account.

Cutlery industry of Kanchannagore and Bompas.

***VII. Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that there is an extensive cutlery industry in the villages of Kanchannagore and Bompas in the district of Burdwan?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to encourage the industry?

(*c*) If no steps have been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A full inquiry has been made and a report submitted by the local Superintendent of Industries. This report is now receiving the consideration of the Industrial Engineer, and proposals for improving the industry will shortly be submitted to Government.

(*c*) and (*d*) These questions do not arise.

Muhammadans in Bengal Secretariat and attached offices.

***VIII. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what efforts have been made since the publication of the notification No. 13603-*Mis.*, dated the 14th November, 1919, to give practical effect to rule 15(*2*) of the rules published under the said notification?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of vacancies that occurred and the number out of them that were given to Muhammadans in the upper and lower divisions of the clerical service since the publication of the above notification—

(*i*) in the Secretariat; and

(*ii*) in the offices of the Heads of the Departments?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) A yearly return, showing the steps taken during the year in the Secretariat and attached offices to attain the prescribed percentage in the matter of Muhammadan recruitment, is submitted to Government. The matter, therefore, is constantly under review.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. VIII.

	Office.	Number of permanent vacancies in the lower and upper divisions during the year.	Number of permanent vacancies filled by Muhammadans.	Number of temporary vacancies in the lower and upper divisions during the year.	Number of temporary vacancies filled by Muhammadans.
	1919-20.				
Bengal Secretariat.	Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments.	9	2	29	9
	Revenue Department ...	1	1	...	...
	Finance and Commerce Departments.	4	...	2	...
	Public Works and Irrigation Departments.	7	2	8	3
	Local Self-Government and Education Departments.	3	2	11	4
	Legislative Department, including Book Depôt.	1	1	6	1
	Office of the Director of Public Instruction.	6	5	43	16
	Office of the Inspector-General of Police.	9	5	25	10
	Board of Revenue ...	8	4	6	...

Office.	Number of permanent vacancies in the lower and upper divisions during the year.	Number of permanent vacancies filled by Muhammadans.	Number of temporary vacancies in the lower and upper divisions during the year.	Number of temporary vacancies filled by Muhammadans.
Office of the Protector of Emigrants.	...	...	...	...
Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies.	6	2	...	...
Office of the Collector of Customs.	6	2	19	6
Office of the Commissioner of Excise and Salt.	2	1	2	...
Office of the Director of Agriculture.	1	1	14	4
Office of the Director of Public Health (then called Sanitary Commissioner).	3	1	7	1
Office of the Collector of Income-Tax.	8	1	37	7
Office of the Director of Land Records.	1	...	11	4
Office of the Inspector-General of Registration.	2	1	14	2
Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.	...	...	...	...
Office of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal.	...	...	12	4
1920-21.				
Bengal Secretariat. Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments.	3	1	10	2
Revenue Department ...	3	2	1	...
Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments	3	...	13	1
Department of Agriculture and Industries.	2	1	...	...

	Number of permanent vacancies in the lower and upper divisions during the year.	Number of permanent vacancies filled by Muhammadans.	Number of temporary vacancies in the lower and upper divisions during the year.	Number of temporary vacancies filled by Muhammadans.
Bengal Secretariat. Public Works and Irrigation Departments.	2	1	1	...
Bengal Secretariat. Local Self-Government and Education Departments.	6	1	12	2
Bengal Secretariat. Legislative Department, including Book Depôt	5	2	8	4
Office of the Director of Public Instruction.	10	8	37	12
Office of the Inspector-General of Police.	8	3	23	7
Board of Revenue ...	2	1	7	1
Office of the Protector of Emigrants.	1	...	...	...
Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies	6	3	...	...
Office of the Collector of Customs.	5	...	19	2
Office of the Commissioner of Excise and Salt.	...	...	4	2
Office of the Director of Agriculture.	1	...	14	3
Office of the Director of Public Health	2	1	3	3
Office of the Collector of Income-Tax.	4	1	17	5
Office of the Director of Land Records.	...	...	3	...
Office of the Inspector-General of Registration.	2	...	15	4
Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.	1	1	6	...
Office of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal.	2	1	10	2

"Ad valorem" court-fees in Calcutta High Court, Original Side.

***IX. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate recommending to the Government of India the desirability of introducing *ad valorem* court-fee stamps in the Original Side of the Calcutta High Court?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state the additional amount which would be derived if such court-fees were introduced?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) No, but this Government have addressed the Government of India as to the desirability of increasing the court-fees on the Original Side of the High Court.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to paragraph (*ii*) of unstarred question No. 200 by Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan at the meeting of the Council held on the 1st March last.

Applications from officers to retire on proportionate pensions.

***X. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of applications from officers of different services in Bengal who have applied to retire on proportionate pension under the terms announced by the Secretary of State, and

(*ii*) the number of such applications granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Government are not prepared to furnish the information asked for.

"Servant" defamation case.

***XI. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether the expenses of the defamation cases that have been brought by Mr. Kidd, Deputy Commissioner of Police, in the Presidency Magistrate's Court, Calcutta, against the printers of the *Servant* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* are being borne by the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the amount sanctioned,

(*ii*) who has sanctioned this expenditure; and

(*iii*) the items of expenditure in the budget grants from which the costs are being met?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) No definite amount has yet been sanctioned.

(*iii*) The expenditure will be debited to the head "Fees to Pleaders" under "Legal Remembrancer" in the budget grant for the "Administration of Justice."

***XIA. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I ask how much money has already been spent on this account?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: No money has been spent on this account.

Sir Watson-Smyth's speech of 28th February, 1922.

***XII. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department been drawn to the speech delivered by Sir Robert Watson-Smyth at the annual meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the 28th February last?

(*b*) If so, what action, if any, are the Government taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) The speech has been reported in the press.

(*b*) Government are taking no action.

Conviction and imprisonment of political offenders.

***XIII. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statistical statement for the period from the month of November, 1921, indicating month by month and district by district in Bengal including the Presidency town of Calcutta, the number of persons hitherto convicted and imprisoned, as well as those subsequently discharged from jail either conditionally or unconditionally, for offences under—

(*i*) the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908;

(*ii*) the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act of 1911; and

(*iii*) sections 124A and 153A of the Indian Penal Code,

together with the terms of sentences passed upon them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Statements giving the information so far as available are laid on the Library table.

Chaukidars.

***XIV. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of chaukidars in Bengal,

(*ii*) the total amount of cost of their maintenance and equipment;

(*iii*) the amount contributed annually by the Government to the union boards, or chaukidari unions, from the revenue of the chaukidari *chakran* lands, for the maintenance and equipment of chaukidars; and

(*iv*) the sum annually paid by the union boards, from the taxes realised by them under section 37(*a*) of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, towards the pay and equipment of the chaukidars?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*i*) and (*ii*) The information is contained in the statement laid on the table on the 29th August, 1921, with reference to unstarred question No. 30, asked by Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy on the 14th March 1921.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Information is not on record. Inquiry is being made.

Resignation of honorary offices by Babu Benode Kumar Roy Chaudhuri of Barisal.

***XV. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Benode Kumar Roy Chaudhuri, zamindar of Barisal, and an ex-member of the late Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council, has been made to resign all his honorary offices, namely, the Secretaryship of the Dispensary Committee, Secretaryship of the Deaf and Dumb School, and the honorary post of non-official visitor to the Barisal jail, and that his licenses for two revolvers and a pistol have been cancelled by the District Magistrate?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this step?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the text of the correspondence, if any, that might have passed between the District Magistrate and Benode Babu or any other superior officer in this connection?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Benode Babu has been deprived of his honorary offices and licenses for having lent his private carriage for use during the occasions of the visits of Mr. J. M. Sen-Gupta and Mr. Gandhi to Barisal?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes, the honorary offices referred to were resigned at the suggestion of the District Magistrate.

(*b*) This gentleman and members of his family were giving countenance and aid to non-co-operation activities in Barisal and, in the opinion of the District Magistrate, his action was incompatible with his continuing to hold these offices.

(*c*) The suggestion that he should resign his honorary offices was made verbally.

(*d*) These were among the incidents on which the District Magistrate's action was based.

Overseas pay and allowances of Imperial Service officers.

***XVI. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, service by service, the total amount of money drawn annually by the members of the various Imperial Services in Bengal, inclusive of the Indian Civil Service, as overseas pay and allowance?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): The approximate annual cost of overseas pay of the various Imperial Services in Bengal is shown against each service below:—

		Rs.
Indian Civil Service	... ...	4,05,000
Indian Medical Service	...	1,44,000
Agriculture	... ...	13,200
Veterinary Department	... ...	5,400
Police	... ...	1,95,300
Education	... ...	1,11,000
Public Works Department	... ...	39,600
Forests	... ...	27,600
	Total	9,41,700

Reduction in the number of Executive Councillors.

***XVII. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to abolish two of the posts of the members of the Executive Council of the Government, one Indian and the other European?

(*b*) If so, when will the proposal be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) and (*b*) The numb of members of the Executive Council, within the limit fixed by section 4 of the Government of India Act, is a matter within the discretion of th Secretary of State, and the Local Government are not in a position t make any communication on the subject.

Kidderpore bridge.

***XVIII. Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'bl the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased t state the date when the contractors were given the contract for co structing the Kidderpore bridge?

(*b*) Was any agreement entered into between them and the Govern ment for the carrying out of the work?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble th Member be pleased to state within what time it was agreed that th bridge should be completed?

(*d*) What was the rate for the supply of steel and iron work of th bridge?

(*e*) Have the prices of steel and iron work gone down since the dat of contract and the date within which the bridge was to have bee completed?

(*f*) At what rate will the contractors be paid for steel and iron worl of the bridge?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the attention of Government has been drawn a various times to the slow progress of the work in connection with th construction of the bridge?

(*h*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state the time withi which the construction of the bridge is likely to be completed and th bridge opened to traffic?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (th Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) The contrac was accepted on the 6th April, 1920.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The time limit was not definitely fixed as it was not possible t do so owing to very uncertain labour conditions in England. But agains time limit it was stated that the work would be finished in 14 month without penalty clause.

(*d*) Rate for finished and erected steel work was Rs. 655·67 per ton

(*e*) The prices have gone down to some extent during the time mentioned.

(*f*) At the tendered rates noted above.

(*g*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*h*) It is difficult to fix a particular time for completion. As far as can be judged from the present state of the work it is expected that by the end of September next the bridge will be opened to traffic.

District and subdivisional officers of Rangpur.

***XIX. Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is correct that the Muhammadans form the majority of the population of the district of Rangpur?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of passing orders that of the four subdivisional officers of the district, at least two should be always Muhammadans and the District Magistrate be always a European?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

Appointments in the Imperial Services.

***XX. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of appointments in each Imperial Service under the Government;

(*ii*) the number of permanent appointments held by the Indians;

(*iii*) the number of permanent appointments made on the superior and on the inferior scale since the introduction of the Reforms Scheme; and

(*iv*) the number of permanent appointments out of (*iii*) which have been conferred upon the natives of the country?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*i*) to (*iv*) A statement is laid on the table showing the figures as they stood on the 1st April, 1922.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. XX, showing appointments in the Imperial Services in Bengal corrected up to 1st April 1922.

Name of Service.	Number of appointments.	Number of permanent appointments held by Indians.	NUMBER OF PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS MADE SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REFORM SCHEME.			
			SUPERIOR SCALE (DIRECT APPOINTMENTS).		INFERIOR SCALE.	
			Non-Indians.	Indians.	Non-Indians.	Indians.
(1) Indian Civil Service.	Sanctioned strength—208. Actual strength—195.	36	...	1	11	5
(2) Indian Police Service.	Sanctioned strength—119.* Actual strength—107.	6†	...	...	13	1
(3) Indian Forest Service.	Sanctioned strength—23. Actual strength—18.	1	...	...	8	...
(4) Indian Educational Service—						
(i) Men's Branch ...	67	26	...	...	2‡	14‡
(ii) Women's Branch	3	...	...	...	...	..
(5) Indian Agricultural Service.	11§	2	...	...	...	1**
(6) Imperial branch of the Civil Veterinary Department.	3	...	...	...	...	..
(7) Indian Service of Engineers—						
(i) Under the Public Works Department.	Sanctioned strength—28 (14 in the Europe-recruited branch and 14 in the India-recruited branch). Actual strength—25.	9	...	...	...	...
(ii) Under the Irrigation Department.	Sanctioned strength—30 (16 in the Europe-recruited branch and 14 in the India-recruited branch) Actual strength—22.	10	...	...	2	1
(8) Officers of the Indian Medical Service in civil employ.	Sanctioned strength—55 (including 43 at present exclusively reserved for Indian Medical Service officers).	7	1	...	...	...

* Including 7 temporary appointments.
† Including one sub. *pro tem.* appointment.
‡ On the ordinary scale. In the Indian Educational Service there are no superior and inferior scales; but there are some selection grade posts on pay higher than that of the ordinary scale of the service and no direct appointments are made to these posts.
§ Two posts are vacant. There is only one scale in these two services.
** On the ordinary scale.

Alipore jail riot inquiry.

***XXI. Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Alipore jail riot inquiry was held by Mr. Swinhoe under the Criminal Procedure Code;

(*ii*) whether witnesses were examined on their oath and evidence recorded according to the Indian Evidence Act;

(*iii*) for how many days did the inquiry last; and

(*iv*) during the inquiry, for how many hours was Mr. Swinhoe absent from his regular duties as the Chief Presidency Magistrate?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there was any dislocation of business in the police courts owing to Mr. Swinhoe's being engaged in the above inquiry?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the advisability of not employing any of the regular magisterial staff for inquiries other than magisterial inquiries?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) From the 28th April to the 19th May, 1922.

(*iv*) It is not possible now to answer this question with any accuracy.

(*b*) There was some dislocation of work.

(*c*) No.

***XXI-A. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I ask whether the members of the Press were admitted to this inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Yes.

Reduction of the number of the members of the Executive Council.

***XXII. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the recommendation of this Council for the reduction of the number of members of the Executive Council made on the 7th February, 1921, has been accepted by the Government, and, if so, when the Government intend to give effect to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. V at the meeting of the 4th July, 1921.

Separation of Judicial and Executive functions.

***XXIII. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state

whether the committee appointed to frame a scheme for the separation of Judicial and Executive functions have made their report, and, if so, when the said report is expected to be published?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The member is referred to the answer given to an unstarred question on the subject put at this meeting by Babu Jatindra Nath Basu.

Separation of the Judicial and Executive Councils.

***XXIV. Mr. K. C. M. FAROQUI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to separate the Executive and the Judicial functions hitherto combined in the administration of a district?

(*b*) If it is so, when is such separation expected to take effect?

(*c*) Is it a fact that with the separation of these functions it is proposed to abolish the posts of Superintendents of Police?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, in what way do the Government propose to compensate those members who will not have yet completed the full pensionable service?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) to (*d*) The report of the Committee appointed to elaborate a practical working scheme for the separation of Executive and Judicial functions in the administration of Bengal is now under the consideration of Government. Government are not in a position to make any statement on the subject at present.

Recruitment of candidates to Provincial and other services.

***XXV. Mr. K. C. M. FAROQUI:** (*a*) With reference to the notification No. 5798 A., dated the 27th May, 1922, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* promulgating rules to regulate the recruitment of certain of the Provincial and other services, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what considerations led the Government to restrict the competitive examination to nominated candidates only, instead of keeping it open to all candidates.

(*b*) Will nominations of collegiate students be made by the Principal of the College concerned or the Governing Body?

(*c*) Will nominations be made in order of merit coupled with good character, or be based on any other criterion?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) While the number of candidates that can be examined, if it is only a matter of testing them to ascertain whether they have reached a certain standard, is only limited by the number of examiners available, the number that can be

examined with a view to placing them in order of merit is strictly limited; and the best authorities have placed this limit at about 200. As it is expected that the number of qualified candidates who may wish to compete at the examination will greatly exceed this number, Government have considered it necessary to resort to a system of nomination by heads of colleges as outlined in the rules.

(*b*) Nominations will be made by the Principal.

(*c*) It is expected that in their own interests colleges will nominate their best students, and Government do not propose to issue any special instructions in the matter.

Trial of Naresh Chandra Lahiri and others under the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908.

***XXVI. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department been drawn to the judgment passed by the Subdivisional Officer of Pabna in the last week of January, 1922, at the trial of Naresh Chandra Lahiri and others under section 17(*1*) of the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the finding of the trying Magistrate regarding the object of the Pabna district volunteer corps?

(*c*) Has the Pabna district volunteer corps been specially mentioned in the proclamation issued by the Government on the 18th November, 1921?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that the members of the Pabna district volunteer corps, mentioned in (*a*) above, who were convicted and imprisoned, have not been found guilty of doing any acts of violence?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Government have seen a copy of the judgment.

(*b*) The Magistrate found that the objects of the Pabna volunteer corps was to further the cause of the All-India Volunteer Corps by spreading non-co-operation and *swadeshi* in the country.

(*c*) It was not specially mentioned, but is covered by the reference in the notification to "other associations existing in the Presidency of Bengal and having similar objects."

(*d*) Yes.

Gambling in the Rangpur district.

***XXVII. Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that gambling is very prevalent amongst the people of the district of Rangpur?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the Gambling Act to some of the important places of the Rangpur district as recommended by Mr. Fraser, District Magistrate of Rangpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) It has been reported that gambling is prevalent in certain parts of the district.

(*b*) Proposals for the wide extension of the Gambling Act were submitted to Government, but were not accepted in view of Government's policy to extend the Act only to places where gambling is especially prevalent and mischievous, where the working of the Act could be effectively supervised and controlled and which are within a reasonable distance of established courts. Fresh proposals framed in accordance with the policy of Government are awaited from the local officers.

Revision of the pay and prospects of the veterinary assistants.

***XXVIII. Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to revise the pay and prospects of the veterinary assistants?

(*b*) If so, when is the revision to take effect?

(*c*) If no revision is contemplated, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The pay of the veterinary assistants of this presidency was last raised fram Rs. 30—105—70 per mensem to Rs. 50—10/5—100 per mensem in April, 1919. The question of further revision is under the consideration of Government.

Retrenchment Committee for cutting down expenditure in public service.

***XXIX. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether Government contemplate appointing a Retrenchment Committee for cutting down expenditure in public services?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether he is in a position to announce the personnel of the committee?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to Government resolution No. 9113 F. of the 13th June, published on pages 939 to 972 of the supplement of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 14th June, 1922.

*XXIX-A. **Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say whether this Committee has power to co-opt other members?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: No.

Cotton crop.

*XXX. **Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what has so far been done by the department to make the cotton crop an item of district work in the province?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Department of Agriculture is engaged in a survey of the Bengal cottons and has not yet reached a stage when it can recommend definite varieties for growing in the plains of Bengal. From the last two years' results of the cotton experiments on the Dacca Central and other Experimental Farms, however, acclimatised Dharwar American has given the best outturn of the long staple varieties tried. The experiment will be repeated this year. In the meantime, about 200 maunds of Dharwar American cotton seed have been procured and supplied in small quantities to growers who are anxious to try it, and advice with regard to the best methods of cultivation has been issued at the same time both verbally and in the shape of leaflets. Experiments with cold weather cottons were made last season at Dacca and Mymensingh but with poor results, possibly on account of the prolonged drought. They will be repeated this year in the light of this year's experience, and earlier sowing will, if possible, be resorted to.

A cotton sub-committee for Bengal has also been formed to advise Government on cotton-growing policy in the future.

Difficulty in the realisation of chaukidari taxes and union rates.

*XXXI. **Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Police be pleased to state—

(*i*) in which districts of Bengal has difficulty been experienced in the realisation of chaukidari taxes and union rates; and

(*ii*) what were the causes of this difficulty?

(*b*) Are the difficulties that occurred in the districts of Midnapore and Birbhum in connection with the realisation of chaukidari tax and union rates under section 37 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act. 1919, now over?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) (*i*) Difficulties in varying degrees were experienced in practically every district.

(*ii*) Various causes have contributed but the main cause in all cases has been the effect of the spread of the non-co-operation movement.

(*b*) The difficulties have been overcome in these districts.

Building for the Chief Justice of Bengal.

***XXXII. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Public Works Department be pleased to state what the Government are going to do with the land and the building on it which was being constructed for the Chief Justice of Bengal?

(*b*) What has been the cost of construction of the building?

(*c*) Have the contractors of the building been paid their dues?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The partially completed building and the area of land set apart as a compound for it have already been sold to the party who made the highest offer in response to an advertisement in the public press.

(*b*) The sum paid to the contractors employed to construct the building, in full settlement of all demands, amounts to Rs. 1,02,832.

(*c*) Yes.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Alleged maltreatment of certain persons on the 24th December, 1921.

1. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that persons were arrested simply for selling *khadar*, crying *Bande-mataram or Gandhi Maharaj-ki-jai* or for asking people to close their shops on the 24th December last?

(*b*) If so, how many such persons were arrested up to date both in Calcutta and in the mufassal, respectively, since the inauguration of the said policy?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in numerous cases persons were maltreated after their arrest for political offences?

(*d*) Has the Hon'ble the Member taken any steps to ascertain whether such maltreatment has taken place? If so, with what results?

(*e*) What punishment has been inflicted on the offender who is reported to have assaulted Principal Heramba Chandra Maitra and also

on those sergeants and civil guards who are alleged to have assaulted innocent persons as for instance—

(*i*) the assault in Cornwallis street near the Sadharon Brahma Samaj on a gentleman who is a nephew of Professor Ramananda Chatarji, Editor of the *Prabashi*, and who was a member of the Bengal Ambulance Corps in Mesopotamia,

(*ii*) the assault by sergeant No. 129 on a gentleman for simply crying *Bande-mataram* as reported by Mr. K. Roy, a Professor of Bangabasi College, to the officer-in-charge of Garatola thana of Calcutta, and

(*iii*) the assault committed on two volunteers by a civil guard and two Europeans as reported to Sir Frank Carter by Mr. U. N. Bose?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Any cases in which a complaint was lodged in the regular way have been investigated. In no case have allegations of maltreatment been substantiated.

(*e*) The view taken by Government on the incident connected with Principal Heramba Chandra Maitra has been explained to the Council on previous occasions. With regard to the other incidents mentioned, (*i*) and (*ii*) are not on record, while the third seems to be a case reported unofficially to Sir Frank Carter in which he interviewed and warned the member of the Civil Guard concerned.

1-A. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: May I be favoured with a definite answer to my question (*e*)? I want to know whether any punishment has been inflicted on the offender, and if so, what punishment?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I think the answer given is quite definite. The view taken by Government on this incident had already been explained to the Council, and in view of that view, no further answer is necessary.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: As regards (*e*) (*iii*), the answer states that the member of the Civil Guard was interviewed and warned, may I ask whether this is adequate punishment for the offence committed?

This question was disallowed by the Deputy-President.

Extension of service granted to Babu Ramesh Chandra Sen, formerly the Deputy Collector of Income-tax.

2. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of extensions granted to Babu Ramesh Chandra Sen, Deputy Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta;

(*ii*) the date on which his present extension expires; and

(*iii*) what exceptional public grounds existed for granting him extensions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to appoint any Muhammadan officer in his place?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) (*i*) Babu Ramesh Chandra Sen has been granted a second extension of service for one year with effect from the 17th July, 1922.

(*ii*) 16th July, 1922.

(*iii*) Babu Ramesh Chandra Sen has specialized in income-tax work and his services are specially valuable in connection with the re-organisation of the income-tax department. The Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, requested Government to grant him an extension in order that he might fill one of the newly-created posts of Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax.

(*b*) The post of Income-tax Deputy Collector formerly held by Babu Ramesh Chandra Sen has been abolished. Appointments of Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax are made by the Commissioner of Income-tax subject to the previous approval of the Governor in Council. Consequently the question does not arise.

Expenditure for the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

3. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total amount of expenditure incurred by this Government for the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales;

(*ii*) the total amount of funds subscribed by the people of Bengal;

(*iii*) from what head of the Budget grants this expenditure was met; and

(*iv*) from what source it is proposed to make up the deficiency, if any?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*i*) Rs. 3,13,869-3-8.

(*ii*) Rs. 2,91,595-7-5.

(*iii*) Provision of Rs. 3,61,000 made for the purpose under "47.—Miscellaneous."

(*iv*) Does not arise.

Calcutta University and Madhab Babu's bazar.

4. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state

the amount realised by the Calcutta University from Madhab Babu's bazar since it was handed over to them?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state how long the bazar will be continued in its present form?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when the conditions on which the bazar was acquired for the University are likely to be fulfilled?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): The University have replied as follows:—

	Rs.
(*a*) Gross Receipts from 16th August, 1921, to 28th February, 1922	13,002.
Expenditure	6,842.
Net Receipts	6,160.

(*b*) Many of the squatters have vacated the market in pursuance of notices directing them to vacate the market before the 28th February, 1922. Steps are being taken for early demolition of the squatters' sheds.

(*c*) The market was acquired by Government on behalf of the University for extension of University buildings. Plans for the proposed buildings have been submitted to Government for sanction. As soon as sanction is received, the construction of the buildings will be taken in hand.

Number of Deputy Superintendents in Press.

5. **Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Bengal Secretariat Press used to be managed formerly by one Superintendent and one Deputy Superintendent;

(*ii*) that the Private Secretary's Press is now a separate establishment; and

(*iii*) that the Darjeeling Branch Press has ceased to be a tour office press?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of reducing the number of Deputy Superintendents retaining one for the head office and the other for the branch at Sealdah?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) (*i*) Up to 1913, the Bengal Secretariat Press was under the supervision of one Superintendent and one Deputy Superintendent.

(*ii*) Yes. It has been a separate establishment since 1908.

(*iii*) Yes. It was confirmed as a permanent establishment in 1908, and for some years before this had ceased to be merely a tour office.

(*b*) In view of the great increase in recent years of the work of the Secretariat Press, and the need for careful supervision of the intricate and modern machinery that has been installed, Government consider that no reduction in the number of Deputy Superintendents is practicable.

Capital grants to schools for building pu .

6. **Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately, for the last three years, for Indian and European Schools—

(*i*) the number of applications received for capital grants for building purposes;

(*ii*) the number of applications granted; and

(*iii*) what sums were granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 6.

	INDIAN SCHOOLS.			EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.		
	1918-19	1919-20.	1920-21.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
(*i*) Number of applications received for capital grants for building grants.	227	408	319	20	20	17
(*ii*) Number of applications granted.	79	215	118	19	14	12
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(*iii*) Sums which were granted.	1,42,515	1,83,639	1,86,626	1,46,662	2,40,143	58,182

Preventive measures for Cholera.

7. **Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** In view of the concluding remarks in paragraph 28 (section VI) of Dr. Bentely's Report on Sanitation in Bengal for the year 1918, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to ascertain what measures, to secure the early notification of cases of cholera, and the disinfection or other safeguarding of polluted water-supplies, have been adopted by the district boards of at least those districts which suffer the most from a high death-rate from cholera?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the Library table.

Persons dealt with under Criminal Procedure Code for political work.

8. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing month by month—

(*i*) the number of persons dealt with under section 106, Criminal Procedure Code, for offences in connection with political work or activities during the year ending 31st December, 1921;

(*ii*) the number of persons engaged in political work who were ordered to execute bonds under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, for keeping the peace during the last year;

(*iii*) the number of persons who, in connection with their political activity, were ordered to execute bonds under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, for good behaviour during the last year; and

(*iv*) the number of political workers who, having refused to give security under each of the above sections, were committed to prison during the last year?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The information in the form desired is not available. Up to 19th December, 1921, there were (*a*) 122 cases under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, in connection with the Khilafat agitation and the non-co-operation movement. In 62 of these cases involving 271 persons orders for the execution of bonds were passed; and (*b*) in the same period there were 19 cases instituted under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code. In 13 of these cases involving 18 persons orders were passed for the execution of bonds for good behaviour.

8A. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state in how many of these 62 and 13 cases referred to in the answer to question 8, were the persons committed to jail for refusing to execute these bonds?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I want due notice of that question.

Persons dealt with under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

9. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing district by district—

(*i*) the number of persons arrested in pursuance of the notifications under the Criminal Law Amendment Act during the months of November and December, 1921, and January, 1922; and

(*ii*) the number of them released unconditionally after having been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, but before the expiration of those terms?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 9.

DISTRICT	Number of persons arrested during November and December, 1921, and January, 1922, under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.	Number of persons convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act who were unconditionally released before expiration of the term of their imprisonment.
Bakarganj	104	
Birbhum	10	
Bogra	110	
Calcutta	5,569	In Calcutta 1,195 persons and all juveniles under 16 years of age in the Alipore and Presidency Jails were unconditionally released.
Chittagong	610	
Dacca	448	
Dinajpur	2	
Faridpur	646	
Howrah	266	
Jessore	3	
Midnapore	5	
Mymensingh ...	309	
Nadia	30	
Noakhali	60	
Pabna	80	
Rajshahi	10	
Rangpur	335	
Tippera	52	
24-Parganas	202	

NOTE.—(1) No unconditional release was made in any of the districts.
(2) There were no arrests in other districts.

Cholera mortality in Jamalpur and Tangail.

10. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to make a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of deaths in the last outbreak of cholera; and

(*ii*) the number of patients actually treated,
in the several thanas in Tangail and Jamalpur?

(*b*) Has any report been made to the Government as to the cause of this unusual virulence of cholera in the above areas?

(*c*) If so, what are the causes?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*ii*) One hundred and fifty cases treated at dispensaries; 5,000 cases treated in their homes by the Bengal Public Health Department staff working in association with the Bengal Social Service League. Information by thanas is not available.

(*b*) and (*c*) Reports on this epidemic have been submitted to Government. The question of the alleged unusual virulence of this epidemic was not specially alluded to, but may be explained as follows:—

Cholera occurs every year in various parts of the Mymensingh district and is spread in the usual manner owing to the unhygienic practice of defiling the sources of water-supply by, for example, soiled clothes and excreta. In years of ample inundation and abundant rainfall, cholera does not become specially virulent because crops are good, the majority of the people well-fed, and the water-supply is also abundant. But when rainfall is deficient and inundation scanty, crops are poor and the people are thus rendered specially liable to epidemics, and the supply of water in tanks and streams being less than usual, it follows that it is more liable to pollution.

In the last cholera epidemic investigation shows that cholera spread along lines of communication, *viz.*, roads, railways and navigable streams, and there is little question that the improvement that has taken place in the two former means of communication in recent years has assisted in the spread of cholera infection.

Cholera is always spread by human intercourse and travellers are often careless in the way in which they pollute sources of water, and in regard to the quality of the water and food they consume.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 10 showing cholera mortality in the Tangail and Jamalpur Subdivisions of the Mymensingh district for the period from September to December, 1921.

Thanas (including outposts.)	1921.			
	September.	October.	November.	December.
Tangail Subdivision—				
Tangail ... ... / Basail outpost ...	16	643	840	169
Nagarpur	...	94	354	72
Mirzapur	...	128	147	20
Gopalpur ... ... / Madhupur	3	484	773	157
Sarisabari	5	289	303	4
Kalihati	14	247	338	70
Ghatail	...	142	199	10
Jamalpur Subdivision—				
Sherpur ... ... / Sribardi	69	119	473	268
Nalitabari	...	8	29	133
Dewanganj ... ... / Islampur ... ... / Nokla	27	204	630	131
Jamalpur ... ... / Malandaha	200	663	1,051	138
Madargaonj ...	20	280	442	30
Total ...	354	3,301	5,579	1,202

Out-break of cholera in Mymensingh.

11. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement regarding the recent outbreak of cholera in the district of Mymensingh and the steps taken to combat it?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The member is referred to the reply to his question relating to the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions.

Listed posts open to Bengal Judicial Service.

12. Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the number of posts listed as open to the members of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial)—

(*i*) before 1915,

(*ii*) from 1915 to 1920, and

(*iii*) after 1920?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Majid while he was the Legal Remembrancer of Assam was holding one of those posts?

(*c*) Is it a fact that by the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Majid as an Executive Councillor in Assam there has been a vacancy in those posts from the 3rd January, 1921?

(*d*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how the said vacancy has been filled up, and who has been appointed in the place?

(*e*) If the vacancy has not been filled up, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons, if any, for keeping it vacant for so long a time?

(*f*) When is the vacancy expected to be filled up?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Including one post for Assam, the number of Judgeships listed as open to members of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) was—

(*i*) before 1915—five;

(*ii*) from 1915 to 1920—six; and

(*iii*) after 1920—six.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The vacancy was filled up by the appointment of Mr. Girish Chandra Sen, a member of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial).

(*e*) and (*f*) These questions do not arise.

Pabna-Bogra settlement office.

13. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) when it is proposed to remove the Pabna-Bogra Settlement head office from Pabna town to Serajganj;

(*ii*) whether it is contemplated, on the removal of the Pabna-Bogra Settlement head office to Serajganj, to leave an establishment at Pabna town for the convenience of the people of Pabna Sadar subdivision till the record-of-rights and settlement of rents under chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act are completed in all their stages; and

(*iii*) how far the settlement operations had progressed at the end of February, 1922, in—

(*a*) the Serajganj subdivision, and

(*b*) the district of Bogra?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*i*) It is proposed to remove the head office of Serajganj in the current month.

(*ii*) The attestation and disposal of objections from Pabna town and its neighbourhood will be carried on as at present by an establishment stationed in Pabna town. The local public will also be allowed to file miscellaneous petitions and petitions for copies at the Pabna office.

As regards case work, cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act from the Pabna Sadar subdivision will be disposed of at Pabna town and possibly at other centres in the subdivision in accordance with rule 422 of the Survey and Settlement Manual, 1917. Arrangements will also be made to allow the parties to file their plaints in such cases at Pabna.

(*iii*) By the end of February the following progress had been made in the areas named:—

(*a*) Serajganj subdivision—

Kistwar—102 square miles.
Khanapuri—102 square miles.
Bujharat—75 square miles.
Attestation—36 square miles.

(*b*) Bogra district—

Kistwar—907 square miles.
Khanapuri—734 square miles.
Bujharat—28 square miles.

Director, Public Health Laboratory.

14. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the newly-appointed Director of Public Health Laboratory, Bengal, is also to be the Public Analyst for Bengal?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in addition to this, the Department have appointed the Senior Chemical Assistant of the Bengal Public Health Laboratory, Calcutta, as Public Analyst for the Dacca Public Health Laboratory and have thereby incurred an additional recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 1,200 for payment of duty allowance to this official?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) It has been decided that the Director of the Public Health Laboratory should be the Public Analyst for Bengal excluding (1) the Dacca and Chittagong divisions, and (2) the Darjeeling district. The Senior Chemical Assistant of the Calcutta Laboratory has been placed in charge of the new Dacca Public Health Laboratory. It has been decided to appoint him as Public Analyst for the Dacca and Chittagong divisions, and in view of this increased responsibility and of the fact that he will be in direct charge of the Dacca Laboratory, Government have decided to give him a special allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem. It is proposed that the Medical Officer of Health, Darjeeling Municipality, should be Public Analyst in the Darjeeling district, as the Municipality has already established a very complete and up-to-date Laboratory.

Syllabuses for Primary and Middle Vernacular standards.

15. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the syllabuses for the primary and middle vernacular standards are undergoing revision?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when the revised syllabuses are likely to be published?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) A revised curriculum of studies for primary schools in Bengal was approved in Government order No. 1665-Edn., dated 16th November, 1920. Since the publication of this curriculum, Mr. Biss has made certain proposals in his Report on the expansion and improvement of Primary Education, for co-ordination of the syllabuses for the secondary and primary schools. This may require a further modification of the revised syllabus in the near future. In the meantime it is being considered whether the

existing and the revised curricula should not be tried side by side for a year or so as an experimental measure. Instructions are being issued to Inspectors to the effect that the revised curricula will be introduced from January, 1923, in all the divisions, but it is possible that the existing curricula will be retained in selected districts.

Income and expenditure of a chaukidari union.

16. Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what was the maximum income of a chaukidari union under the Village Chaukidari Act, 1870, and what was the maximum amount of expenditure for office management and realisation of taxes?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The income of a chaukidari union varies according to the number of chaukidars. The amount to be raised by assessment is calculated according to rule 53 of the Chaukidari Manual, a copy of which may be consulted in the Council Library. The maximum amount admissible for cost of collection is 10 per cent. of the amount collected (rule 51 of the Chaukidari Manual).

Public Health Department.

17. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the supervision fees charged by the Public Works Department and by the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department for contribution works executed in favour of local bodies?

(*b*) Is there any difference in the charges of those two Departments? If so, why?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the scales of the present pay of Engineers and subordinates of both the Departments?

(*d*) Is there any difference in the scales? If so, why?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there exists a feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction among the engineers and subordinate staffs of the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department for not inaugurating the improvement of pay and prospects of this Department as has been done in the Public Works Department?

(*f*) Is it a fact that more than 50 per cent. of the staff of that Branch are temporary?

(*g*) Is it a fact that several persons having obtained technical knowledge and experience in this Department have left it for better pay and prospects elsewhere?

(*h*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal, is experiencing difficulties in getting good men at the sanctioned pay?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the reorganisation scheme of the Public Health Department showing how the same compares with that of the Public Works Department?

(*j*) Is any reorganisation scheme prepared for the Public Health Department?

(*k*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when the scheme is likely to come into operation?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The percentage charges for contribution works levied by the Public Works Department which are based on actuals for five years are stated below:—

Establishment	...	21½ per cent.
Tools and Plant	...	1½ per cent.
Audit and Accounts	...	1 per cent.
		24 per cent.

This includes the charges for the preparation of designs and estimates, as also for carrying out the project and for tools and plant. Under the old sanitary projects rules, a charge of 15 per cent. on sanctioned estimates was made for supervision by the Public Works Department and 3 per cent. for preparation of detailed estimates, drawings, specifications, etc., by the Sanitary Engineer. When the rules were revised in 1916, it was decided that the Sanitary Engineer should carry out these projects, and a reduction in the charges was made under paragraph 1885V of the Public Works Department Code (old). Under rule 26 of the revised rules, which are in force now, a percentage charge of 3 per cent. is levied for detailed estimates, specifications and drawings, and under rule 28, a percentage charge ranging between 3½ per cent. and 8 per cent. is made for carrying out the project. Under rule 27, no charge is levied for the services of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, or his assistants for preparation of sketch projects or for drawing materials and instruments. It will be seen, therefore, that the charges were reduced with a view to encouraging local bodies to embark on sanitary projects. A copy of Municipal Department Circular No. 5TM., dated the 23rd May, 1911, is laid on the Library table. The scale of fees for supervision of works under the Engineering Branch, Public Health Department, were fixed with the intention that the fees so levied would approximately cover the cost of the supervising establishments required, plus such portion of the cost of the head office establishments as could properly be charged to the works. The question as to whether or not this intention is fully carried out will be reconsidered when the department is reorganised and the programme of work to be carried out by it in future is more definitely settled.

(*c*) For the scale of pay of the officers of the Public Works Department, a reference is invited to the papers noted below:—

(1) Government of India, Resolution No. 264 E.A., dated 6th May, 1920;

(2) Public Works Department, Bengal, Resolution No. 2546, dated 30th August, 1920;

(3) Public Works Department, Bengal, Resolution No. 458 E., dated 8th February, 1921;

(4) Public Works Department, Bengal, Resolution No. 468 E., dated 8th February, 1921; and

(5) Public Works Department, Bengal, Resolution No. 1263 E., dated 4th April, 1921;

(copies of which are laid on the Library table); and for the superior service of the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department the member is referred to India's Circular No. 1P.W. of the 29th March 1921 (a copy of which is laid on the Library table). Steps are being taken to give effect to this resolution. The question of revising the pay of the Intermediate and Subordinate Establishment of the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department is still under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative. The difference is due to the fact that the officers of the two Departments have to perform different kinds of works.

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

The delay in the case of superior staff was due to the receipt of the Government of India's orders nearly a year after the receipt of the orders relating to the officers of the Public Works Department and in the case of the subordinate staff, the issue of orders regarding the similar staff in the Public Works Department was awaited.

(*f*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*g*) It is a fact that some officers have left the department.

(*h*) In some cases this is true, but the difficulty has not been so much in getting men as keeping them when they have been trained and become valuable.

(*i*) and (*j*) A copy of Government of India's Circular No. 1P.W., dated 29th March, 1921, is laid on the Library table. Regarding the revision of pay of the intermediate and subordinate services of the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department, the matter is still under the consideration of Government but orders are expected to issue shortly.

(*k*) Partial effect to the scheme relating to the superior staff of the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department has already been given, and as soon as the Government of India's orders to the reference made by this Government are received full effect to the scheme will be given. Regarding the intermediate and subordinate staff the member is referred to the answer to clauses (*i*) and (*j*).

"Ad valorem" court-fees in Calcutta High Court, Original Side.

18. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department in a position to state the amount which might have been realised if *ad valorem* court-fees had been introduced in the Original Side of the High Court during 1920-21 and 1921-22?

(*b*) Have the Government taken any steps to introduce *ad valorem* court-fees in the Original Side of the High Court? If so, with what result? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) No. The member is referred to the answer given to the question asked by Babu Surendra Nath Mallik on the same subject.

(*b*) The matter is one for the Government of India and not for this Government.

Newspapers subscribed to by Government.

19. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state the number of copies subscribed to by Government of the following newspapers:—

Statesman, Englishman, Indian Daily News, Bengalee, Indian Mirror, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Servant, Nayak, and Basumati?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: A statement showing the number of copies of the newspapers mentioned which are subscribed to by the Government direct is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 19.

	Number of copies taken
Statesman	13
Englishman	13
Indian Daily News	5
Bengalee	13
Indian Mirror	7
Amrita Bazar Patrika	13
Servant	6
Nayak	--
Basumati	--

District board grants to union committees and union boards of Hooghly and Howrah.

20. Babu FANINDRALAL DE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to

lay on the table a statement showing, union by union, the grants made by the district boards of Hooghly and Howrah to the union committees constituted under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885, during the last year of the existence of such committees, and to the union boards which have since replaced them during the first year of their existence?

(*b*) In the latter case—

(*i*) how much represents the grants-in-aid, under section 45 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, V of 1919; and

(*ii*) how much under the proviso to section 45 of the same Act?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Two statements showing the required information are laid on the table.

(*b*) The grants were made under section 45 of the Act without any reference to the proviso to that section.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 20 showing the grants made by the district boards of Hooghly and Howrah to union committees during the last year of the existence (i.e., 1920-21) as such committees and to union boards which have since replaced those committees during the first year of their existence (1921-22).

I.—DISTRICT HOOGHLY.

Name of union committees which have been replaced by union boards.	Grants received from district boards by union committees during the last year of their existence.	Grants received from district boards by union boards during the first year of their existence
	Rs.	Rs.
Pandua	800	No grant was made to these union boards as each of them obtained pound receipts exceeding Rs 158.
Sripur Baligarh	...	
Boinchi	200	
Magra	...	
Somra	...	
Dhamakhali	214	138
Dhobapara	...	118
Guptipara	...	250
Chanditola	445	240
Janai	...	50
Haripal	324	110
Begampur	1,107	375
Sherkhala	...	60
Bali	200	140

NOTE.—The Chairman of the district board reports that of the 14 union committees shown in column 1 some were converted into union boards in January 1920 and that these boards received no grant from the district board for the three months of the year 1920-21, the grants paid to them as union committees being continued.

II.—District Howrah.

Name of union committees which have been replaced by union boards.	Grants received from district boards by union committees during the last year of their existence	Grants received from district boards by union boards during the first year of their existence.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bankra	50	100
Makardah	160	100
Begri	188	100
Dakhin-Jhapardah ...	546	196
Kolora	188	100
Mahiary	169	100
Narna	125	100
Domjur	338	100
Uttar-Jhapardah	331	100
Bally	188	100
Lilooah	125	100
Jagocha	75	100
Santragachi	75	100
Sankrail	100	100
Nalpore	260	100
Jhorehat	50	100
Andul	75	100
Beldubi	50	100
Dulley	50	100
Manikpur	50	100
Dhulagori	50	100
Bagnan	646	596
Uluberia	2,234	1 652
Jagodishpur	50	100
Singti	50	100
Panpur (Bhanderpucha) ...	110	100
Amta	388	627
Udamarayanpur	150	100
Borgachia	260	100
Hantal-Anantabati	160	100
Pantipal	275	100
Shekrapati	220	100
Maju	100	100
Jagatballavpur	400	100
Bonharishpur	75	100
Polgustia	75	100
Gobindapur	50	100
Dheulpur	100	100
Jageshwar	50	100
Panchla	50	100

Dankuni canal.

21. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in detail the income from the Dankuni Drainage canal (district Hooghly) under the following heads, from 1873 to 1921:—

(*i*) Toll tax from the two sections, viz.—

(1) Pakirbagan to Bonderbil, and
(2) Bonderbil to Jhankaria;

(*ii*) Fisheries; and
(*iii*) Spoil banks?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the construction of the canal was carried out under the Hooghly and Burdwan Drainage Act, 1871 (Bengal Act V of 1871), at the cost of the proprietors?

(*c*) Is it a fact, as stated in the Bengal District Gazetteer, Hooghly, Volume XXIX, page 162, that the total cost with maintenance charge capitalised have been recovered from the proprietors before 1892?

(*d*) Was there any provision in the said Drainage Act of 1871 for the collection of tolls in the Dhankuni Drainage canal and the appropriation of the same by the Government?

(*e*) What has been the cost of maintenance of the canal for the last three years?

(*f*) Under what authority was the canal brought under the operation of the Canals Act, 1864 (Bengal Act V of 1864)?

(*g*) Is it a fact that all income derived from the canal, such as fisheries, etc., belong to the proprietors under section 40 of the Act of 1871 and that the Government is holding the same as trustees as provided in section 36 thereof?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any portion of the amount realised has been paid to the proprietors?

(*i*) If so, what is the amount and what are the names of the recipients?

(*j*) If not, what is the reason for retaining the same?

(*k*) Is it a fact that a portion of the Bally khal from the river Hooghly to Pakirbagan is navigable?

(*l*) Why is no toll levied in that portion of the Bally khal?

(*m*) Why has not this portion of the Bally khal been brought under the Canals Act, 1864 (Bengal Act V of 1864), along with the Dankuni Drainage canal?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The figures are as follows from 1907 to 1921:—

(1) Pakirbagan to Bonderbil—Toll tax, Rs. 67,660; Fisheries, Rs. 17,695; Spoil banks, Rs. 33,280.

(2) Bonderbil to Jhankaria—Toll tax, Rs. 1,142; Fisheries, nil; Spoil banks, Rs. 6,530.

Prior to 1907, the revenue management of these khals was carried out by the Collector of Hooghly and no figures are available in the Public Works Department.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The statement recorded in the Bengal District Gazetteer, Hooghly, Volume XXIX, is authoritative.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) The cost of maintenance of the Dankuni Drainage Works for the last 3 years was—

		Rs.
1918-19	..	1,636
1919-20	...	5,393
1920-21	..	... 3,206

(*f*) By the declaration published in Revenue Department notification dated the 17th November, 1891, under the provisions of Canals Act V of 1864, *vide Calcutta Gazette* of the 18th November, 1891, Part I, page 975.

(*g*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. Land was held in trust under section 36 of the Act, but not receipts from fisheries.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) The question does not arise.

(*j*) The receipts have been adjusted against maintenance charges under section 48 of Act VI of 1880 which repealed Act V of 1871.

(*k*) Yes, this is so.

(*l*) Because this channel has not been declared a navigable channel under the provisions of the Canals Act, V of 1864.

(*m*) It has not been considered expedient to declare the Bally khal a navigable channel under section 2 of the Canals Act, V of 1864.

Bengali shorthand writers.

22. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total amount of remuneration given to Mr. D. N. Singhaw who invented Bengali shorthand in 1893;

(*ii*) the total amount of salary drawn by him as Bengali shorthand teacher—

(*a*) in the police training college; and

(*b*) in the Government Commercial Institute:

(*iii*) the period for which he acted as a professor of the Government Commercial Institute;

(*iv*) how many students were under him;

(*v*) how many of them were given a stipend of Rs. 75 *per mensem* and for what period were such stipends given;

(*vi*) how many of them became successful Bengali shorthand writers; and

(*vii*) how many of them were given Government appointments on finishing their course?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*i*) Mr. D. N. Singhaw received an honorarium of Rs. 1,000 in connection with his Manual of Bengali Phonography. The total amount of his emoluments in various posts from 1908—1920 is Rs. 38,214.

(*ii*) (*a*) Rs. 28,875.

(*b*) Rs. 6,725.

(*iii*) 23rd September, 1819, to 22nd September, 1920.

(*iv*) Four.

(*v*) Four for two years.

(*vi*) Three.

(*vii*) Three.

Shalanga incident.

23. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that there is a feeling in the country regarding the recent events that took place at Shalanga Hát, where some people are reported to have been killed by the armed police and a large number wounded?

(*b*) Has any judicial inquiry been held into the affair? If not, why not?

(*c*) If there was any judicial inquiry, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table?

(*d*) Are the Government contemplating paying any compensation to the families of the killed and wounded?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The report of the magisterial inquiry into this incident together with the views of Government was published with resolution No. 4599 P., dated the 14th March, 1922, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

(*d*) The District Magistrate has been asked to report if in any case the death or injury was caused in circumstances which would justify compensation.

Ex-Chairman of Azimganj Municipality.

24. Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the chairman and vice-chairman of the New Board of the Azimganj Municipality in the district of Murshidabad were elected on 3rd January, 1922;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that money is being still drawn by the ex-chairman from the Lalbagh sub-treasury; and

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the outgoing vice-chairman, Babu Hari Das Ghosh, is still exercising the power of vice-chairman?

(*b*) If so, what action are the Government taking?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*ii*) The Lalbagh sub-treasury have honoured cheques drawn by the *de facto* chairman in charge, but no cheques have been drawn by the out-going chairman since the new chairman was gazetted. During the period when the old chairman held office, no cheques signed by the new chairman were received in the sub-treasury.

(*iii*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) This does not arise.

Public Health officers under district boards.

25. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what expenditure is incurred annually under the head "Public Health" in its different branches, namely:—

(*i*) Vaccination,

(*ii*) Water-supply,

(*iii*) Sanitation, and

(*iv*) Epidemic work?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of candidates who passed the D.H.P. Examination of the Calcutta University up to date; and

(*ii*) how many of them joined the situation of District Health Officer under district boards in Bengal?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the district boards find difficulty in securing the services of well-trained and specialised officers?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling that exists that there is misunderstanding between these officers and the local authorities and that they do not receive facilities for doing any work of practical value?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Khulna district board has given its officer all facilities for work?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that most of the district boards in Bengal are unable to discharge their responsibilites in this matter owing to financial stress?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of placing the District Health Officer under the direct control of the departmental head?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The available information regarding local bodies is contained in the statistical tables appended to the annual resolutions of Government reviewing the working of the district boards and municipalities and that regarding Government in the annual reports on sanitation and vaccination.

(*b*) (*i*) From December, 1919, up to date, 42 candidates have passed the D.P.H. Examination of the Calcutta University.

(*ii*) Eighteen passed D. P. H. candidates have received up to date appointments as District Health Officers under district boards in Bengal. It is expected that the unfilled appointments under the remaining district boards will be filled up from the last batch of nine D.P.H. candidates some of whom have already applied.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative. The whole demand for the services of qualified health officers could be satisfied only gradually. Some of the passed candidates held or took up service in the Bengal Public Health Department, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Calcutta Corporation, Municipalities (first class) or remained in private practice. It is expected, however, that the full demand for qualified candidates for health officers under district boards will be met from those who will appear at the next D.P.H. Examination.

(*d*) A few cases of district boards not encouraging the activities of their health officers have come to notice. It is hoped that with longer experience of each other, both sides will combine to improve the sanitation of their areas.

(*e*) The specially good health work in the Khulna district done by the health officer has been noticed.

(*f*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*g*) The question of provincialization of the local health services was considered by the Bengal Sanitary Reorganization Committee. It has been decided that the services of District Health Officers should not be provincialised.

Decrease of population in Jessore.

26. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he is aware of the decrease of population in the district of Jessore?

(*b*) Have the Government arrived at any conclusion that it is due to malaria?

(*c*) What present action do the Government contemplate taking to stop this falling off of the population?

(*d*) Will there be any anti-malarial works undertaken in the district in the next year?

(*e*) Will there be any new works under the Sanitary Drainage Act for the reclamation of the *bil* area?

(*f*) Will there be any help given to the district board by the Government for the free distribution of quinine to the poor villagers?

(*g*) Does the Hon'ble the Minister remember that the Jessore district board recommended the reclamation of the *Bil Boronal* in the Narail subdivision at their conference at which the Hon'ble the Minister was also present?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the reclamation of this *bil* will begin from next year? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Mortality from malaria is not separately recorded but is included in the figure showing deaths from fever. During the period of five years from 1916—20, about 82 per cent. of the total mortality figures represented deaths from fever, including malaria.

(*c*) The following anti-malarial schemes have been taken up, viz., Arul *Bil* and Jabuna schemes. Preliminary surveys with regard to the following anti-malarial schemes have also been made, viz.:—(*1*) Harihar Mukteswar, (*2*) Bhairab, (*3*) Betna Kodla, and (*4*) Jhenida Banir. Grants are also given from provincial revenues for the free distribution of quinine.

(*d*) The Arul *Bil* and Jabuna schemes will be continued during the current year.

(*e*) The district board of Jessore may take up new works under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, which has superseded the old Sanitary Drainage Act.

(*f*) Grants are made every year from provincial revenues for the free distribution of quinine in limited quantities. Additional provision for Rs. 50,000 is made this year in the Supplementary Budget.

(*g*) and (*h*) The member recently wrote to the Minister for Local Self-Government regarding this project and an inquiry has been made

as to whether the Jessore district board is prepared to proceed with this scheme under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act. The matter is under the consideration of the district board.

Circle officers of Tippera Sadar subdivision.

27. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) With reference to the answer given to unstarred question No. 2 for the meeting of the 21st November, 1921, and No. 137 for the 20th February, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) who were those four circle officers who were posted in the Sadar subdivision;

(*ii*) who amongst them left the subdivision; and

(*iii*) when did they leave?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the south subdivision of Tippera is disturbed by the non-co-operation movement?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of posting a Muhammadan circle officer there?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) (*1*) M. Rakibuddin Ahmed. (*2*) Arshad Ali. (*3*) M. Siddique Ahmed. (*4*) M. Amir Ali.

(*ii*) No. 1 died on the 1st February, 1922.

No. 2 and No. 3 left the subdivision.

(*iii*) No. 2 on March, 1914.

No. 3 on 5th February 1921.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Travelling allowances of circle officers.

28. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the circle officers get a fixed travelling allowance;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that they have to tour at least for 20 days in the month to enable them to draw the allowance; and

(*iii*) whether it is not a fact that they do not get the allowance or any portion of it if the total number of days on tour falls short of 20 days in the month?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of allowing them a proportionate allowance for the days on tour when they fall short of 20 days?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The fixed allowance is calculated on the assumption that a normal month's touring will consist of 20 days. It is the duty of the District Officer to satisfy himself from a scrutiny of tour diaries that touring does not fall short of this period without good reason, and it is open to the District Officer who is not so satisfied to deduct such amount as he thinks fit from a circle officer's travelling allowance bill. Unless this is done, however, a circle officer will be entitled to draw the allowance, even though his touring falls short of 20 days.

(*b*) In the circumstances explained, this is not necessary.

Disorders and derailments on Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway.

29. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether the following disorders occurred in the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway in the course of a few weeks:—

(*i*) the engine of the Express train was derailed at the point gate of Pattipuker station on the 23rd December, 1921;

(*ii*) the engine of the 2-Down was derailed at the point gate of Rajarhat-Bishnupur on the 24th January, 1922;

(*iii*) the engine of the 1-Up was derailed at the point gate of Pattipuker station on the 4th February, 1922;

(*iv*) the machinery of the engine of the 3-Up was dislocated while running between the 6th and 7th mile and the train was detained for half-an-hour on the 18th February, 1922?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, are the Government contemplating taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) Yes; except that the engine was drawing an empty rake of vehicles and not an Express train.

(*ii*) Yes; the engine was engaged in shunting at the time of the derailment.

(*iii*) Yes; except that the derailment occurred on the 6th and not on the 4th February, 1922. The engine was engaged in shunting at the time.

(*iv*) Nothing is known of any detention to train No. 3-Up on the 18th February, 1922.

(*b*) Necessary departmental inquiries were held on each occasion, and disciplinary action was taken when employés were found to be at fault. Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

29A. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to para. (*b*) to answer 29, are the Government in a position to state what action has been taken in each of the above cases?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I must have notice of that question.

Tax on foreign liquor.

30. Colonel A. J. PUGH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state when it was decided to impose an excise tax of 2 annas per bottle on whisky and wines and 6 pies per bottle on beer over and above the increased custom duties as from the 1st April, 1922.

(*b*) What additional yield does he expect to get from the tax?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that in introducing the Budget in the Indian Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble the Finance Member stated that, as regards ale and beer, liquors and spirits, although the Government of India would have preferred to have waited another year before raising the duties further, they could not afford to neglect any possible increase of revenue in the coming year, however small—moreover, when they were proposing heavy additional taxation, affecting many necessaries of life, they thought it was all the more imperative to take from alcohol *the maximum revenue* possible? They accordingly proposed an increase of approximately 22 per cent. in the duties on all alcoholic liquors?

(*d*) Are the Government reconsidering the question of the advisability of imposing this excise tax or duty?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what is the policy of the Government with regard to the addition of excise duties or taxes?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to give a list of the licenses that have been recently cancelled and the length of notice given to the licensees before cancellation?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) It was decided on the 15th March last that an Excise license tax of 2 annas per bottle of whisky and wines and 6 pies per bottle of beer would be levied from 1st April, 1922, in place of the annual fixed license-tax or auction license-tax.

(*b*) It is expected that the additional yield from the new system of assessment will amount to about 3½ lakhs of rupees. The change in the system of assessment was made not so much with a view to obtain more revenue from such liquors as to put the license system on a satisfactory and equitable basis.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The policy of Government, so far as license fees are concerned, is to introduce a fixed fee system in place of the systems previously in force.

(*f*) No excise licenses have been given to the following firms:—

(1) Graham & Co.
(2) T. Mackillican & Co.
(3) Grandage Moir & Co., Ltd.
(4) Jeena & Co.
(5) Ahmuty & Co.
(6) B. G. Gorio & Co.
(7) Begg, Dunlop & Co.
(8) Holland Bombay Trading Co., Ltd.
(9) Moberley & Co.
(10) Alexander Tapissier, Ltd.
(11) Stoll, Earl & Co., Ltd.
(12) Goodwin Smith & Co.
(13) Scroggie Brothers.
(14) E. Kemball & Co.
(15) Smith Froster & Co.
(16) Suzuki & Co.
(17) Andrew, Yule & Co.

Several of these firms had no stock on 1st April last, while others which had small stocks have been given permission and time to dispose of these. No firm held large stocks.

Jessore water-works.

31. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there was any project for extension of water-works in the district of Jessore at an estimated cost of about Rs. 42,000.

(*b*) If so, why no extension work were started?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the present water-works are considered defective and inconvenient?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to complete the work?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) A sketch project for extending the catchment area of this water-works was prepared and forwarded to the Municipality on 18th November, 1919.

(*b*) The scheme was adopted at the adjourned meeting of the Commissioners of the Jessore Municipality held on 20th November, 1920 and was sent to the Magistrate with an application for Government

assistance on 17th February, 1921. It was forwarded by the latter to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division on the 25th May, 1921, and received in the office of the Sanitary Board on the 28th February, 1922. The Commissioner was opposed to the acquisition of certain *khas mahal* land for the water-works and pending discussion of this question, the scheme was not forwarded. There has moreover been some difficulty as regards the financing of a loan by the Municipal Commissioners for the work.

(*c*) There is no serious defect in the works. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, states that the quantity of water has been insufficient chiefly because the catchment area has been neglected; it has now become a jungle from which water does not flow easily into the tanks. The filtration has been frequently inefficient owing to a lack of supervision and the recommendations made by the inspecting officers of the Public Health Department have not been carried out.

(*d*) Government are corresponding with the Commissioners regarding the recent proposals put forward by the latter.

Non-entry, in Quarterly Civil List, of time-scale pay of Bengal Judicial Service.

32. Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the reasons, if any, why entries in the Bengal Quarterly Civil List have not been made in respect of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) by showing the time-scale pay of each individual member of the said service, although the members of that service have been drawing their time-scale from the last quarter of 1920?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in all other services where time-scale of pay has been introduced, including those services where it was introduced after the introduction in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial), the entries showing the time-scale pay have been made in the list?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that as a result of not making such entries one member of the service is unable to know the pay now drawn by any other member of his service, and that it has had the effect of not allowing intending candidates for the said service to know the rates of pay of the present set of officers?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Pressure of work in the Judicial Department and the office of the Accountant-General prevented the revision being taken up earlier. The pay of the officers will appear in the list to be issued in July.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Probably this is so, but any one desiring to do so could calculate the pay approximately with reference to the years' service of an officer and the published time-scale.

Travelling allowances of circle officers.

33. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bengal have fixed, for the circle officers, Rs. 25 as a special allowance and a daily allowance at the rates provided in exception (*g*) to article 1063 of the Civil Service Regulations for the officers of the Settlement Department?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the resolution No. 4397 A., dated the 9th June, 1921, does away with the special allowance altogether by substituting a house allowance of Rs. 25 until free quarters are provided by the Government?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the resolution has the effect of stopping the mileage which used to be drawn by the circle officers?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that a feeling of discontent exists amongst the circle officers owing to the introduction of the new rules regarding travelling allowances?

(*e*) What were the recommendations of the District Administration Committee in their report as to the travelling allowances of the circle officers?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what effect, if any, has been given to those recommendations?

(*g*) What is the area generally placed in charge of a circle officer?

(*h*) What is the average number of union boards which a circle officer has to supervise?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any special allowances are given to the Sub-Deputy Collectors in the Settlement and Co-operative Department besides travelling allowances?

(*j*) If so, what is the nature of such allowances?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*e*) and (*f*) Circle officers formerly received a local allowance of Rs. 25 a month and daily allowance, while on tour, at 50 per cent. in excess of the rates ordinarily admissible. The Bengal District Administration Committee recommended that circle officers should be given free quarters and a local allowance of Rs. 75 per mensem, but no travelling allowances for journeys within their circles. This allowance was, however, subject to modification in the case of water districts for which a local allowance of Rs. 50 and a sufficient boat allowance, varying according to the circumstances of the district, was recommended. After a full consideration of the matter, Government in their resolution No. 4397 A., dated the 9th June, 1921, prescribed the following scale of allowances for circle officers:—

(*1*) House allowance of Rs. 25 a month;

(*2*) (*i*) Local allowance of Rs. 75 a month in river districts including boat allowance, and

(*ii*) Local allowance of Rs. 50 a month in other districts.

The house allowance will be continued only so long as quarters are not provided for circle officers.

(*d*) Government have received several representations in the matter.

(*g*) and (*h*) To ensure close and efficient supervision the object has been to place 30 millions approximately in charge of a circle officer. The area thus placed under each officers varies from district to district according to the size of the unions.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) A duty allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem.

Grant-in-aid under "41.—Civil Works."

34. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state where and how the money (Rs. 11,31,000) under head "41.—Civil Works" (transferred)—"Grant-in-aid," has been distributed?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The sum of Rs. 11,31,000 has been provided to meet the following demands and will be allotted in due course:

Details of Rs. 11,31,000 under "41.—Civil Works—Grants in aid" for 1922-23.

	Rs.
Grants to District Funds representing 1½ per cent. on collections from Government estates for road works	77,000
Augmentation grants to District Boards	8,06,400
Grant to District Board, Hooghly, for construction of road ...	805
For rounding	-205
Total ...	8,84,000
Grant to Khulna Municipality for road works	737
Grant to Ranaghat Municipality	500
Grant to Calcutta Municipality—	
For road works	2,204
For rent of Hastings	4,772
For improvement in official quarters	5,000
Grant to Murshidabad Municipality	3,600
Grant to Naraingauj Municipality for road works	1,500
Grant to English Bazar Municipality for loss of ferry receipts ...	650
Grant to Calcutta Improvement Trust	1,50,000
Grant to Muhammadan Burial Board	3,000
Grant to Commissioners of Divisions and Magistrates for petty local works of improvement	76,000
For rounding	-963
Total ...	2,47,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	11,31,000

Scheme for the recruitment of officers for certain services.

35. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether there is any draft scheme ready for the recruitment of officers in the next year (1922-23) for the—

(*i*) Provincial Executive Service;

(*ii*) Provincial Police Service;

(*iii*) Department of Excise?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay the draft scheme on the table for the information of the Council?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of presenting such schemes for discussion and consideration by the Council before final adoption?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Government have sanctioned a scheme for the recruitment of officers for the Bengal Civil Service, the Bengal Police Service and the Department of Excise, and the member is referred to the rules published at pages 1054-60 of the *Calcutta Gazette*, Part I, of the 7th June, 1922.

Appointment of Government pleaders and public prosecutors.

36. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the procedure generally followed in fulfilling up the posts of Government pleaders and public prosecutors in districts;

(*ii*) whether in each case the vacancy is advertised and whether a degree in Law and some experience in the district are considered to be essential qualifications in the candidates for such vacancies;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the post of the Government pleader has fallen vacant in Burdwan, and

(*iv*) if so, whether any notice of the vacancy was given to the local bar inviting candidates for the appointment?

(*b*) If the notice of the vacancy referred to in (*a*) (*iv*) was not given to the local bar, are the Government considering the desirability of causing the vacancy to be duly advertised before accepting any recommendation made by the local authorities?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to rule 147 of the Civil Suit Rules, Chapter IX, which runs as follows:—

"Whenever the office of Government pleader is vacant, the Collector shall, in consultation with the Sessions Judge, nominate a qualified

pleader for the appointment and submit the papers, through the Commissioner, to the Legal Remembrancer, who shall forward them to the Local Government with his recommendations."

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) No.

Residence of Chief Justice.

37. Colonel A. J. PUCH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to say whether the Government of India have expressed an opinion that an official residence should be provided for the Chief Justice of Bengal?

(*b*) Are the Local Government considering the desirability of recommending to the Bengal Legislative Council that an official residence should be provided for the Chief Justice of Bengal as soon as funds are available and that until such time a suitable house should be taken on lease by the Government of Bengal for a Chief Justice's residence?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that there is considerable difficulty in finding suitable accommodation for the Chief Justice of Bengal in Calcutta?

(*d*) Is it correct that No. 7, Middleton Street, was scheduled for acquisition for an official residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal and the necessary declaration was published in the Gazette?

(*e*) Why was the acquisition of this house abandoned, and at whose instance, and for what reason?

(*f*) Is it correct that the Government of India recommended to the Government of Bengal not to acquire No. 7, Middleton Street, but to build a house for the Chief Justice of Bengal on the Porabazar site instead?

(*g*) Which of the above two alternatives was estimated to be the cheaper?

(*h*) What steps are the Government proposing taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The Government of India accorded administrative sanction to the provision of an official residence for the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and to the purchase of No. 7, Middleton Street, for the purpose.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Yes. Government are aware that the housing problem in Calcutta is very acute for some time past and there is difficulty in finding suitable accommodation for high officials of Government.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The proposed acquisition of No. 7, Middleton Street, was abandoned as Government was advised during the preliminary inquiries connected with the acquisition that the award would be seriously contested and enhanced. This was represented to the Government of India and they left the question of an official residence for the Chief Justice of Bengal entirely to this Government. It was then decided to build a house for him on the Porabazar site.

(*f*) No; the Government of India sanctioned the purchase of No. 7, Middleton Street, and when this proposal was abandoned, this Government initiated the scheme for building a house at Porabazar site.

(*g*) The acquisition of No. 7, Middleton Street, was cheaper.

(*h*) Government do not propose to take any steps in the matter at present.

Calcutta Research Tannery.

38. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what revenue Government derive by selling the outturn from the Calcutta Research Tannery?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The revenue realised by selling the outturn from the Calcutta Research Tannery is shown below:—

In 1920-21, Rs. 6,283; in 1921-22, Rs. 19,700; thus making a total of Rs. 25,983.

Superintendents of Industries.

39. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the qualifications necessary for the appointment to the posts of Superintendent of Industries; and

(*ii*) the qualifications of the present incumbents?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*i*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 146(*a*) asked by Maulvi A. H. M. Wazir Ali at the meeting of the Council held on the 31st August, 1921.

(*ii*) The member is referred to the statement showing the qualifications of these officers furnished in reply to starred question No. III(*d*) and (*e*) asked by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur at the meeting of the Council held on the 1st April, 1921. The designation "Circle Officer" has since been changed to "Superintendent of Industries."

Jalpaiguri Agricultural Farm.

40. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what progress has been made of the projected experimental farm at Jalpaiguri, for which an allotment was made for preliminary expenditure and a site chosen some time ago?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Administrative approval has been accorded to the construction of the buildings, etc., for the proposed agricultural farm at Mainaguri in the district of Jalpaiguri at an estimated cost of Rs. 46,000 It will not be possible to start the building work during the current financial year but it is hoped to proceed with the work next year if funds are available.

Secret societies.

41. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to obtain from Mr. S. R. Das, M.L.C., the names of the secret societies and of persons forming secret societies, to which he is reported to have referred at the last session of the Bengal Legislative Council?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether Government had or has any independent information about the persons or secret societies referred to in clause (*a*)?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names and activities of these persons and of the secret societies?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state, what action has been taken with regard to the activities of these persons and societies?

(*e*) If the answer to question (*a*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble the Member considering the desirability of getting this information? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) to (*e*) In the public interests Government are unable to make any statement regarding secret societies or persons forming secret societies.

41-A. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is it against the public interest to ask Mr. Das for information regarding these secret societies and persons forming these secret societies?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: In the public interest Government are not prepared to make any statement regarding these societies.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Did Mr. Das volunteer any information?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I can only repeat that it is against public interest to make any statement in this connection.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Does the Hon'ble Member realise that this attitude creates great discontent in the country?

The question was disallowed by the Deputy-President.

Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta Police.

42. Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: (*a*) With reference to my unstarred question No. 34 of the Council session commencing on the 21st November, 1921, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is not correct that 25 and not 15 Assistant Commissioners of Police (including temporary and acting), as shown in the annexed list, have been appointed in Calcutta, since the creation of these appointments in 1916?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that out of these 25 men appointed, 14 were Christians, 11 Hindus and that no Muhammadans were appointed?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a Muhammadan Inspector, named Sher Muhammad Khan, who was on the top of the list of 1st grade Inspectors and was not promoted to the post of Assistant Commissioner, left the Calcutta Police after ten years' service?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the educational qualifications of Messrs. Cook and Jackson, Assistant Commissioners?

(*e*) Have they passed any police training examination?

(*f*) Were there any special reasons which led to the appointment of these junior officers over the heads of many graduates and trained officers?

List of Assistant Commissioners of Police, Calcutta, since the creation of these posts in 1916 up to 8th May, 1922, referred to in clause (a) of the question.

	Name of officers.	Remarks.
1.	E. Jennings	Deceased.
2.	W. Mulcahy	
3.	Rai Sahib Baidya Nath Mukherjee	

	Name of officers.	Remarks.
4.	Rai Bahadur Kunja Bihari Mukherjee (Christian) ...	Retired.
5.	Thomas Boyles	Retired.
6.	Rai Sahib Hari Har Mukherjee	Retired.
7.	Rai Bahadur Purno Chander Lahiri	Promoted to Deputy Commissioner.
8.	W. Cook	Promoted to Deputy Commissioner.
9.	J. Mulcahy	Acting Deputy Commissioner.
10.	Rai Sahib Panna Lall Brahmacharya.	
11.	Babu Upendra Nath Bose	
12.	Babu Nalini Nath Sen.	
13.	A Farrow	Furlough (reverted).
14.	J. Woolly.	"
15.	J. Shevellin.	
16.	Babu Bhupendra Nath Banerjee.	
17.	D Fisher.	
18.	R. N. Robertson.	
19.	Babu Mahendra Nath Mukherjee.	
20.	L. Jackson	Temporary.
21.	E. A. Hartley	Temporary.
22.	Babu Sukumar Banerjee	Officiating.
23.	Babu Mahendra Nath Sinha	Officiating.
24.	J. Creffield	Reverted.
25.	Babu Bhabanath Choudhry	Reverted.

Christians	14
Hindus	11
Muhammadans	nil
Total ...	25

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) The list is correct, including temporary and acting appointments.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. He was attached to the Calcutta Police on deputation from the North-West Frontier Province Police in order to control Kabulis, etc., in Calcutta. He was not literate in English.

(*d*) First class Army certificates.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Mr. Cook was specially appointed to the Calcutta Police as Inspector of the Mounted Police in 1914 as there were no officers then competent to undertake the work. He was promoted to be Superintendent (now Assistant Commissioner) the same year, on the death of Mr. Eastwood from injuries received at Budge-Budge. The Assistant Commissioner, Headquarters Force, is in charge of all Sergeants.

Mr. Jackson, in addition to his Army service, has 23 years' service in the Calcutta Police. He was specially selected to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, Port Police, as he had an intimate knowledge of the river and docks and the duties of the post.

Sericultural Superintendents of Bengal.

43. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what are the special qualifications of the Sericultural Superintendent of Bengal?

(*b*) Where did he obtain his training on sericulture?

(*c*) Was he in Government service before he was appointed as the Sericultural Superintendent? If so, in what post?

(*d*) Was the post of the Sericultural Superintendent advertised before the appointment was made? If not, why not?

(*e*) If the post was advertised, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the applicants with their qualifications?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) There are two Superintendents of Sericulture—Babu Surendra Nath Bose and Maulvi Shaik Abdulla. The former is permanent, and the latter is on probation. Babu Surendra Nath Bose has no academical degree but he is a practical sericulturist of over 16 years' experience. He was formerly Superintendent of the Piasbari Central Nursery and was the senior officer among the Nursery Superintendents when he was promoted to the post of Superintendent of Sericulture.

Maulvi Shaikh Abdulla is a graduate in science and is a Sub-Deputy Collector. He secured scholarships in the I. Sc. and B. Sc. Examinations. He had no previous training in sericulture, but was brought up in sericultural surroundings as his grandfather and father owned silk filatures which now belong to him.

(*d*) The post was not advertised as a suitable candidate was available.

(*e*) This question does not arise.

Police Rate Committee's report.

44. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state when the report of the Police Rate Committee is expected to be published?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The report is being printed and will be published shortly.

European Electoral Roll.

45. Colonel A. J. PUCH: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware that Mr. R. L. B. Gall of No. 2, Minto Park, Calcutta, paid both owner's and occupier's rates and taxes in respect of premises No. 2, Minto Park, for the year 1919-20 in his own name and that receipts have been granted in his own name and he is and was at the time the recorded owner in the Municipal Records?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that Mr. R. L. B. Gall paid income-tax and super-tax for the year 1918-19 and that the receipts were granted as follows:—"Received from Messrs. Landale & Clarke, Ltd., account R. L. B. Gall"?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Mr. Gall's name was omitted from last European Election Roll?

(*d*) Is it correct that a very large number of Europeans who paid income-tax and municipal rates and taxes were omitted from the roll?

(*e*) Who were the officers responsible for the preparation of the European Electoral Roll?

(*f*) What positions do these officers hold now?

(*g*) Are the Government contemplating taking steps to have another European Electoral Roll for the Presidency and Burdwan Division prepared in such a manner as to include the names of all Europeans who have paid income-tax and municipal rates and taxes of the required amount?

(*h*) Have the Government of Bengal made any representation to the Government of India on the subject of instructing the Commissioner of Income-tax to keep complete and up to date records of all income-tax payees for the purpose of future Electoral Rolls?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) and (*b*) Copies of the receipts referred to have been furnished for the information of Government.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Complaints to this effect have been received by Government.

(*e*) and (*f*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 12 asked by him at the meeting of Council held on the 28th February, 1921.

(*g*) This roll will be revised in the ordinary course next year and it is not proposed to have an intermediate revision.

(*h*) No.

Accidents to cattle in the southern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

46. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) been drawn to the frequent accidents to cattle in the southern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway between Sonarpur and Canning Stations?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the absence of wire-fencing on both the sides of the said portion of the said Railway?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the prevention of the accidents to the said domestic animals of the locality?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No steps have been taken, but the subject of the question will now be brought to the attention of the Government Inspector of Railways.

Police Retrenchment Committee.

47. Mr. S. MAHBOOB ALEY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the Committee appointed to consider the question of reduction of the expenditure on the Police in Bengal has submitted its report?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps to have the report expedited?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No. The question is a very important one and Government have no desire unduly to hurry the Committee in its deliberations.

Acquisition of land for the Grand Trunk canal scheme.

48. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether he is aware that hardships and loss are being caused to the owners of land at Patipukur and other places in the 24-Parganas district, for the acquisition of whose land, for the Grand Trunk canal scheme, a declaration was published on or about the 2nd August, 1920, but in respect of which no acquisition notice has been issued and actual acquisition has been kept in abeyance?

(*b*) Do the Government propose proceeding with the acquisition? If so, when?

(c) If there is likelihood of there being delay, have the Government considered the desirability of releasing the property from the declaration to enable owners to make use of their land?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (a) Government is not aware that any hardships or loss is being caused to the owners of land. No such complaints have also been made to the Chief Engineer in charge of the project.

(b) and (c) The question of proceeding with land acquisition or of withdrawing therefrom depends on the decision whether the project should be given effect to or not. The matter is expected to be settled within this year as soon as the revised project is completed.

Separation of the Judicial and Executive functions.

49. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the Committee, appointed by the Government of Bengal with the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Greaves as President, to consider the question of the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions, has submitted their report?

(b) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of publishing the report at an early date with a view to ascertaining the views of the public thereon?

(c) Are the Government also considering the desirability of deferring action on the recommendations of Committee until an opportunity is afforded to the public to express their views on the report?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (a) Yes.

(b) The examination of the scheme outlined in the report will take some time, and the report will be published together with the considered views of Government after this has been completed.

(c) Until the examination of the scheme by Government has been completed, it is impossible to say whether it will be necessary or desirable to invite the opinion of the public.

Completion of the work of the proposed Bajitpur subdivision.

50. Mr. S. M. BOSE: (a) With reference to the memorial, dated the 9th February, 1922, to His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, the late Governor of Bengal, by several leading inhabitants of the Chowki of Bajitpur, in the district of Mymensingh, praying that the Government be pleased to take steps for the completion of the work of the proposed Bajitpur subdivision, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether any action is being taken on the memorial?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the said Chowki of Bajitpur is in a backward state of development?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state what would be the estimate of recurring and non-recurring expenditure for converting Bajitpur into a subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) The memorialists were informed that their prayer could not be granted as work in connection with the partition of the district of Mymensingh had been closed down.

(*b*) This is a matter of opinion.

(*c*) The cost of land and buildings for the proposed Bajitpur subdivision was estimated in 1918 to be Rs. 6,63,621. Figures of estimated recurring expenditure for Bajitpur separately are not on record.

Silting up of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh.

51. Mr. S. M. BOSE: (*a*) With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 127, of the 29th August, 1921, on the silting up of the Brahmaputra, in Mymensingh, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether he is now in a position to direct an inquiry to be made as to the means of improving the river?

(*b*) If not, when does the Hon'ble the Member expect to be in a position to do so?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) and (*b*) The question of the silting up of the Brahmaputra, in Mymensingh, is under consideration of this Government.

Annual sale of fishing rights in certain canals.

52. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state why and since when the annual sale of fishing rights in the Circular, Kristopur, Bhangar and New-Cut canals has been stopped?

(*b*) Is it a fact that this has resulted in loss of revenue?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes. Leasing of fishery rights in the Circular, Kristopur, Bhangar and New-Cut canals has been stopped since 1917-18. This was done under the expert advice of the Director of Fisheries with a view to accelerate the growth of fish in the canals.

(*b*) Some loss of revenue has resulted from the stoppage of leasing this fishery right. But the permanent benefits are considered much more substantial.

Increased staff and expenditure for the creation of a new circle of the Irrigation Department.

53. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state why a new and additional post of Superintending Engineer, on a salary of Rs. 1,750—100—2,150, and a new circle, named as the Southern Circle, have been created?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state since when this has been done?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what reconstitution of divisions and subdivisions is necessitated by such a step?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what other new and additional appointments in the subordinate staff such a reconstitution has resulted in?

(*e*) What consequential increase in recurring expenditure has been the outcome of the creation of the said new circle and when and how was it provided for in the Budget?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) No new and additional post of Superintending Engineer, on a salary of Rs. 1,750—100—2,150, nor a new circle named as the Southern Circle has been created. The old Central Circle has only been re-named as the Southern Circle.

(*b*) The Central Circle was re-named as the Southern Circle with effect from the 1st December, 1921.

(*c*) A statement showing the reconstitution of Irrigation Divisions and Subdivisions necessitated by the separation of the two branches of the Public Works Department, as compared with those as existed previous to it is laid on the table.

(*d*) The reconstitution has resulted in the appointment of office establishment of the Khulna divisional and the Haridaspur subdivisional offices and the creation of the post of the Executive Engineer, Khulna Division, which has not resulted in any additional appointment as it has been filled up from the existing scale of the Engineer Establishment.

(*e*) As no new Irrigation Circle has been created there is no increase of expenditure on account of establishment, but in consequence of the formation of the new Khulna Division and the Haridaspur subdivision there is an increase of Rs. 803-5-4 per month in recurring expenditure, which was provided for in the Irrigation Establishment budget for 1921-22 and has also been provided for in the same budget for 1922-23.

Comparative Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 53 (c), showing the Irrigation Divisions and Sub-divisions before and after the separation of the two branches of the Public Works Department on 1st December, 1921.

Before 1st December 1921.

Divisions.	Sub-Divisions.
Under South-Western Circle— Cossye—	1 Godghat (transferred to Damodar Division).
	2 Midnapore (transferred to Roads and Buildings).
	3. Luchmapur.
	4. Panskura
	5. Contai.
	6. Etamogra.
Under South-Western Circle— Northern Drainage and Embankment. (Name changed to Damodar Division).	1 Saijbaria
	2. Diamond Harbour (transferred to Canals Division
	3. Edilpur
	4. Mograhat (transferred to Canals Division).
Under South-Western Circle— Circular and Eastern Canals Name changed to Canals Division)	1 Calcutta Canals *
	2. Bhangore (name changed to Tolly's Nala).
	3. Khulna (transferred to Khulna Division).
	4. Dredger.
	5. Waterways (transferred to Khulna Division)
Under South Western Circle— Midnapore Canal Revenue Division	1. Balichack.
	2 Antra.
	3 Panskura.
Under Central Circle— Nadia Rivers	1. Berhampore (transferred to Roads and Buildings).
	2. Lower Bhagirathi (name changed to Jangipur).
	3. Upper Bhagirathi (name changed to Jangipur.)
	4. Akriganj.
	5. Bhagirathi observation (name changed to Berhampore).
	6. Krishnagar (transferred to Roads and Building)
Under Chief Engineer— Sanitary Drainage. (Name changed to Jessore Drainage Division.)	1. Arool Bhil.
	2. Uluberia
	3. Nowi-Sunthi.
	4. Drainage.

After 1st December, 1921.

Divisions	Sub-Divisions.
Under South-Western Circle— Cossye—	1 Luchmapur.
	2 Panskura
	3 Contai.
	4 Etamogra.
Under South-Western Circle— Damodar.	1 Godghat.
	2 Saijbaria
	3. Edilpur.
Under Southern Circle— Canals	1. Calcutta Canals
	2 Mograhat
	3. Diamond Harbour.
	4. Tolly's Nala.
Under South-Western Circle— Midnapore Canal Revenue Division	1. Balichack.
	2. Antra.
	3. Panskura.
Under South-Western Circle— Nadia Rivers.	1 Berhampore.
	2. Jangipur.
	3 Akriganj
Under Southern Circle Jessore Drainage Division.	1. Arool Bhil.
	2. Uluberia.
	3. Nowi-Sunthi
	4 Drainage (since changed to headquarters sub-division).
Under Southern Circle— Khulna. (New)	1 Khulna
	2. Harinkhatta (new)
	3 Waterways.

* Bhangore Subdivision was on the separation transferred to the new Khulna Division. It has since been re-transferred to Canals Division and the name changed to Tolly's Nala Subdivision.

Location of the Presidency Magistrate's Courts.

54. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been, or are going to be taken in connection with the resolution passed in the Council on the 23rd of November, 1921, regarding the location of the Presidency Magistrate's Courts?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The Traffic Court (Southern Division) and the Motor Car Case Court has been brought back to the Bankshall Street Court. Inquiries as to cost of providing a single Court for the whole of Calcutta were made, and an estimate prepared. The cost will not be less than Rs. 19½ lakhs. As accommodation is sufficient for the present, in the present state of its finances, Government is not prepared to spend such a large sum out of general revenues of the province unless the Council itself would still advise Government to embark on the scheme and grant money for the purpose. The re-arrangements made in the Southern Division Court give accommodation for four Honorary Magistrates' Courts and provide for the Traffic Court and the Motor Car Case Court also.

Appointment of a permanent Principal for the Government Commercial School.

55. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any permanent Principal has been appointed for the Government School? If not, why not?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Committee of the Commercial Institute were consulted in the affair?

(*c*) If so, what were the recommendations of the Committee?

(*d*) Were the recommendations unanimous?

(*e*) Have the recommendations been given effect to? If not, why not?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what are the prescribed functions of that Committee?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) A Principal has not yet been appointed. After receipt of the sanction of the Secretary of State to the recruitment of a Principal locally, the post had to be advertised and application considered by the Board of the Commercial Institute. Their recommendations have been received and are now under the consideration of Government.

(c), (d) and (e) Government are not prepared to make any statement regarding the recommendations of the Board until a final decision has been arrived at.

(f) The prescribed functions of the Board are—

(i) to examine and pass the accounts of the Institute;

(ii) to control the expenditure of all sums of money allotted for the maintenance of the Institute subject to any conditions imposed by Government;

(iii) to advise the Director of Public Instruction, with regard to changes of staff;

(iv) to see that the curriculum is suitable for the intended purpose;

(v) to consider and examine all projects for the improvement of the Institute before their submission to the Director of Public Instruction; and

(vi) to see that the interests of passed students looking for employment are adequately safeguarded.

Construction of a Light Railway from Rangpur to Pirganj.

56. Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether the construction of a Light Railway from the Rangpur Railway Station to Pirganj in the district of Rangpur is in contemplation?

(b) If so, when is the scheme likely to be taken up and by whom?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

Promotion of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

57. Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state how many Sub-Deputy Collectors have been promoted to the rank of Deputy Collectors during the year 1921?

(b) Has any Muhammadan Sub-Deputy Collector been so promoted?

(c) If not, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this?

(d) Is it not correct that the Muhammadan Sub-Deputy Collectors form almost one-third of the cadre of the Subordinate Executive Service?

(e) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of promoting the Muhammadan Sub-Deputy Collectors to the rank of Deputy Collectors in proportion to their number?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, are the Government proposing taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Four.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) It was considered that the four officers promoted had better claims than any Muhammadan Sub-Deputy Collectors.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) and (*f*) No. The promotion of officers who are already in Government service is regulated entirely by merit, and it is not considered appropriate to introduce the questions of race and religion.

Technical and Industrial School.

58. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state where technical and industrial schools have been established in the province and what training is being given by those schools?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: A copy of the list of Technical and Industrial Institutions in Bengal, corrected up to date, containing the information asked for, is placed on the library table.

New dredger.

59. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether a dredger is coming from the Scottish Firm of Messrs. William Simson & Co.?

(*b*) If so, where will it be used in Bengal?

(*c*) Is it the intention of the Government to obtain the sanction of the Council to the Grand Trunk canal project before starting work on the project?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) It is intended to employ the dredger in the Madaripur *bil* route during the first six months, afterwards in the Grand Trunk canal if the scheme is sanctioned by the Council; otherwise in the river improvement and other schemes now being worked out in the Irrigation Department.

(*c*) Yes.

Destruction of crops owing to the waterlogging of the Dakatia "khal" in Serampore.

60. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether he is aware that owing to the waterlogging of the Dakatia *khal* in the subdivision of Serampore, district Hooghly, some fifty villages have been seriously affected, by the destruction of crops?

(*b*) Is he also aware of the petition made by the people of the affected villages on the 20th February, 1922?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps to remove the grievance?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A petition on the subject has been received. This is now under inquiry.

Retrenchment Committee for cutting down expenditure in the public services.

61. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether Government contemplates appointing a Retrenchment Committee for cutting down expenditure in the public services?

(*b*) If so, is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to announce the personnel of the committee?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to Government resolution No. 9113-F. of the 13th June, published on pages 939 to 972 of the supplement of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 14th June, 1922.

Rules for admission to the Technical School at Kanchrapara.

62. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of publishing for the information of the public, the rules of admission to the Technical School at Kanchrapara?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Board of Control for Apprenticeship Training have recently drawn up a pamphlet giving full particulars regarding the Apprenticeship Admission Examination, which is applicable to all affiliated workshops including Kanchrapara. This pamphlet has been

published in the *Calcutta Gazette* and is also being circulated to the Heads of Schools and others interested. A copy of the pamphlet is placed on the library table.

Establishment for the Grand Trunk canal project.

63. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government at present entertain any establishment for the Grand Trunk canal project?

(*b*) If so, what is the establishment?

(*c*) What does the pay of the staff cost per month?

(*d*) Is there any cost incurred by Government on the project?

(*e*) If so, how much does the same cost amount to per month?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The establishment consist of a Chief Engineer, one Executive Engineer, two Assistant Executive Engineers, one Overseer and two Sub-overseers and an office establishment.

(*c*) Rupees 7,017 per month.

(*d*) Other expenditure for contingencies, office rents, travelling allowances and small surveys.

(*e*) About Rs. 2,000 per month.

Alleged murder and grievous hurt upon two respectable gentlemen of Joynagar.

64. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of the alleged murder and grievous hurt committed upon two respectable gentlemen to Joynagar in the district of 24-Parganas in May last?

(*b*) When were the alleged offences committed?

(*c*) Have the police taken up an inquiry into the matter?

(*d*) If so, when?

(*e*) What is the distance of the place of alleged murder from the nearest police station?

(*f*) When did the Magistrate of the district come to know of the offence and how?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by the Government to bring the offenders to justice?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) to (*g*) Government have no information on the subject but are inquiring as to the facts.

In continuation of the answer to unstarred question No. 167 put by Rai Sahib Panchanon Barma at the meeting of the 31st August, 1921, the following statement is laid on the table.

Murder of, and injury to, raiyats in Rangpur.

Inquiry has been made and the facts are reported to be as stated.

In the case of Bani Shekh, a police investigation was held and an offence under section 342, Indian Penal Code, disclosed but the guilty persons were not traced.

In the other case, three men were sent up for trial for rioting and other offences. Two of them were committed to the Court of Sessions and were convicted on the 6th January, 1922, one of rioting and causing grievous hurt and the other of rioting. An appeal against the conviction is now pending before the High Court.

Resolutions.

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Retirement of the First President.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to move "that this Council recommends to the Government to place on record the Council's deep regret at the untimely retirement of its President, the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, K.C.I.E., on account of ill-health and that a message be conveyed to him of the Council's sympathy and sense of loss at his retirement."

It is a matter of deep regret that the first President of this Council has had to retire only after one year of his term of office. But this one year has been a very important year. This Council has been found fault with by the ultra-loyalists and extremists, and also by the Government and Ministerialists. The fact only shows that it has done its work fairly and impartially. During this one year much useful work has been done. If the large measures for the welfare of the people of this country passed by this Council have not yet been given effect to, the fault does not lie at its door. But they must be given effect to to-day or to-morrow. The obstructionists need not chuckle nor the extremists point the finger of scorn at the Council for its impotence The Council has had to face great difficulties on account of the political turmoil in the country. All these difficulties have been faced and great work has been done, and for this, the credit greatly lies with the President. Strong, fair and impartial, Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda steered straight our frail bark in the new unknown sea of political freedom buffeted by storms of violent and non-violent faction with singular ability. We have every reason to remember with gratitude that on the very first day of this Council on the resolution about medical

relief, when the mover was assailed on all sides, and the supporters of the resolution were dumb with dismay at the uproar, Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, though a Government nominee, gauged the opinion of the majority aright, and declared amidst the astonishment of all that the Ayes had it. His verdict was immediately questioned by a demand for a division. The division by an overwhelming majority proved that the President was right. I feel that most of our great men would have given way to the clamour. I thanked God on that day that the Chair was occupied by a good and strong man. Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda has been a good and strong man all his life. I have worked with him for 30 years as pleader, municipal commissioner, Fellow of the University, and I say, without fear of contradiction, that in all walks of life he displayed rare ability, fairness and independence. He was the power behind the throne when he was a member of the Executive Council. He resigned the municipal commissionership with us, and the *Sanjibani* wrote of him as the banner of the race of Sayyids. The descendants of the Prophet of Arabia have produced great and fearless men and humble men also, for will you believe that Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda worked for some time as my Assistant Secretary in the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians? He was for every good work. The Council and the country have, by his retirement, lost a great leader who would have led it to good. I express the sentiment of everyone of my countrymen that we earnestly desire that Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda may regain his health and strength, and lead aright in the middle path the Muhammadans of this province, and establish the unity of Hindus and Muhammadans on the sure basis of equality of culture and fellow-feeling as neighbours who inhabit a great and beautiful country greater and more beautiful than Arabia and Persia, and all the countries over which the Caliphs in their glory ruled, and who have become participators of a culture which it must be confessed, is higher than the culture of Ujjayani or Bagdad.

It was the general idea that Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda was an enemy of mine who snubbed me frequently and unreasonably. His health was ruined and his power of hearing was impatred. I should have remembered and never resented. Was he not the man who, while a member of the Executive Council, wrote of this humble person much below him, a mere pleader of not much distinction, that he has rendered more service to this unfortunate country than any other person? These were the words of a man who felt so deeply for his unfortunate country, that he was inclined to exaggerate every service for it. Was he not again the man who protected every member here against the unthinking attacks and impertinences of the great as well as the small? Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda has, on a hundred occasions, showed that as a true descendant of the Prophet, he was no respecter of persons and was above all, just even to his enemies. Unless a man can be just to his

opponents and enemies he cannot be fearless. Nor can a man be just unless he is fearless. Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda was just and fearless. Such a man is rare in every country.

Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL: I beg to accord my whole-hearted support to the resolution so ably moved by my hon'ble colleague, the Rai Bahadur. Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, as is well-known to us all, was a vakil practising in the High Court. By dint of diligence, intelligence and vast knowledge and experience, he quickly rose to the highest rung of the ladder of ascendancy. He always commanded the confidence of the Government and was also true to the cause and interest of his own and other communities. Thus he has set an example to the Indians in general and to the Muhammadans in particular as to how to reconcile the various interests.

He was first appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Bengal Government and was also called to serve in the Imperial Council. His services were recognised by both the Governments and he was made a Nawab in 1913, and in 1916 was dubbed with the Knight Commandership of the Order of the Indian Empire. After the expiry of his term, he was appointed as a Justice of the Hon'ble High Court, and while he was still in the High Court, he was thought the fittest person to adorn the chair of the President of the Reformed Council of Bengal. This position before him was occupied by the Governors.

It is needless for me to say how strictly he observed the prestige of the Council for he never spared the Hon'ble Members even to bring them to order, when necessary. It is unfortunate that the hard labour which he had to put in, owing to the performance of responsible duties in various capacities, told upon his health for which he has resigned the Presidentship. It is more unfortunate that no Indian has been found competent to succeed him. Let us all pray for his complete and speedy recovery from the malady and I am sure my hon'ble colleagues will carry the resolution with acclamation.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I have no doubt that the resolution now before the House will be welcomed by all sections in this Council and will meet with their enthusiastic acceptance. It is true that the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda was not long associated with this Council, but he has been a prominent figure in Indian political life for a number of years and during the last ten years he had been filling some of the highest offices under the Crown with exceptional tact and ability. I do not wish to take up the time of the Council by recounting the main incidents in his life because they are well-known to my colleagues, but I will say this, that his sudden retirement from public life on the score of ill-health is a great loss to the country at large and a serious blow to Moslem interests in particular. It was very graceful on the part of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur to bring forward this resolution for our acceptance, I may say,

for our enthusiastic acceptance. It will be seen that Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda enjoyed in a very large measure the confidence of all sections of the Council. It will also show how deeply we regret his untimely and sudden retirement.

With these few words, I beg to support this resolution.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I desire to associate myself with the resolution which has been so ably moved by my eloquent friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. I think that after his able and eloquent eulogy, it is unnecessary for me to dwell at length on the services of Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, but I think that in justice to the resolution and in justice to myself, I should, on behalf not only of myself but of those whom I represent here, express our deep and sincere regret at his untimely retirement from the high office which he had been holding. Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda was welcomed as the President of this Council with acclamation not only by his co-religionists but by the Hindu members of the Council, not only because he was one of the foremost members of the Muhammadan community but also because of his distinguished public services and high character. Sir, during the year and a half that he held this office, he conducted himself with even-handed justice, impartiality, tact and decorum that he spared none, official or non-official, European or Indian, in his rulings, and that greatly enhanced the esteem and admiration in which he was held by all communities. For my part I look back with pleasure and pride to my association with him extending over a quarter of a century. I remember that when he was a member of the Corporation of Calcutta, he retired with the celebrated 28 from the Corporation when the Mackenzie Act was passed. I recall to my mind his services as a member of the Bengal Legislative Council and subsequently as a member of the Executive Council, and I acknowledge with gratitude the courtesy, the kindness, and the consideration with which he dealt with all members who came in contact with him. As President of this Council, he was uniformly kind, courteous and considerate and although he was stern in his rulings, he was always impartial and even-handed in enforcing order and maintaining the dignity of the House I hope that he may be spared long and that he will regain his health to serve his motherland.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Allow me to join the House to express my deep sorrow at the premature retirement of the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda. He was chosen by Government to be the first President of the Council as he was one of the first and foremost among the Indians of the time. Sir, the news of his retirement has spread far and wide and even persons who are not taking much interest in the political life of the country are grieved to learn that Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda retires from the services of this country so unexpectedly and so soon.

As for myself, Sir, I had the signal privilege and the great honour of knowing him very intimately for many years and his genial courtesy, unfailing kindness, nobility and sturdy independence, were always a great source of inspiration to me. I have seen him in the High Court also amongst friends, both Hindus and Muhammadans, and there I always found that they vied with each other in showing their love and respect for him and in this connection I venture to vouch for all what my hon'ble friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has said in his able speech.

He was one of those persons who stood for the unity of the Hindus and Muhammadans and I knew him to be one of the greatest peacemakers. You remember the troublous days of the partition of Bengal, you remember also the disturbances that took place in the Mymensingh district. He was one of those Indians who, along with his friends, strove hard to see that matters were settled and as far as I remember he was made a Secretary to the Inquiry Committee of Disturbances at Jamalpur. Now, Sir, he has retired from active life. Let us all hope and pray that he will get back his health and lead a happy and peaceful life with Lady Huda, his brothers, and the other members of his family for many years to come.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I fully join with Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur in his expression of regret at the untimely retirement of the first President, and in view of latter events, may I say, the first Indian President of the Reformed Legislative Council. In addition to the general regret expressed by the Rai Bahadur I have special reasons to be sorry because he comes from my own district of Tippera and it was he, who as a very successful member of the Executive Council, showed that a non-official outsider, without previous office experience, could make an administrator of great merit. His appointment as President of this Council was the culmination of a career of distinguished services to the State, and it is always a matter of great regret, to us that the state of his health caused him much trobule shortly after he occupied the presidential Chair. We were always hoping that his health would improve but, unfortunately, our hopes have not been realised. His services to the Council are far too well-known to require any recapitulation by me. He has been a strong personality and was keenly anxious to uphold the dignity of this Council; I am sure, I voice the sense of this Council, when I say that we all sincerely regret his continued illness and pray that he may soon be restored to his former good health.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I beg most heartily to associate myself with this resolution of my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. Owing to the numerous qualities of head and heart which he had, Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda not only enjoyed the confidence and the respect of Hindus and Muhammadans but also of his

country. We are so sorry that on account of ill-health he had to sever his connection with us and we earnestly hope and pray that Providence will restore his health and will allow him a long rest which he deserves.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: On behalf of both halves of Government I feel it incumbent upon me to join in the sentiments which have been expressed with regard to the genuine regret that we all share at the premature retirement of Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda from the presidential Chair of this Legislative Council. On behalf of the Members of Government as well as my hon'ble colleagues, the Ministers, I wish to offer our sincere sympathies with the reasons for which the Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda has had to send in his resignation and to express the hope that he may soon be restored to health. We have always in the past received from him unfailing courtesy and consideration and we should like to add our share to the just tribute and compliment that has been paid to the retiring President.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Supplementary Estimates.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I have the honour to introduce the supplementary estimates of the Government of Bengal for the year 1922-1923. I shall be very brief in my remarks but the circumstances of this year are exceptional and it is desirable that I should say a few words in explanation of the estimates. In the ordinary course, the programme of expenditure of the local Government is laid before the Council in full in connection with the Budget in February and March, and supplementary estimates are required from time to time only in respect of variations in the progress of carrying out sanctioned schemes or when some new urgent demand arises in the course of the year which is not provided for in the Budget. The supplementary estimates which I am now introducing are not of this character. This little book, as the Council will see, constitutes a budget in miniature. The Council will remember that when I introduced the Budget last February, I asked members not to take it as the complete Budget of Government, but merely as a programme of the expenditure which Government considered necessary if the administration was to be carried on the bare lines hitherto accepted as essential. It will be remembered that at the time when the Budget was introduced, taxation Bills were pending before this Council, and it will be remembered also that the Budget showed a deficit of over a crore of rupees between income and expenditure. We could not include the receipts from the taxation Bills in the Budget last March because the Bills had not been passed, but I promised

that after the Bills were passed, we would introduce supplementary estimates showing how we proposed to dispose of any surplus which we might obtain from the Bills. Well, the taxation Bills were passed and on the best estimate we can frame, we anticipate that our total income during the current year will exceed our expenditure by about Rs. 20 lakhs. We hope that in future years on the same standards we shall be able to count upon a small surplus annually, and we feel therefore that we are entitled to draw from our balances to meet the necessities of the various urgent schemes which, as the Council knows, are before us awaiting funds. If we draw Rs. 40 lakhs from the balances, we shall with a surplus of Rs. 20 lakhs have a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs to spend. Out of this we propose to keep in reserve Rs. 10 lakhs for loan charges. Our loan proposals will be laid before the Council at a later date, but for the present we may assume that we shall have a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs which can be allotted to the various departments by a vote of this Council for expenditure on departmental purposes. As required by the devolution rules, the Government as a whole have considered the allocation of this sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to the various Departments and have decided to give Rs. 17½ lakhs to the Reserved Departments and the balance of Rs. 32½ lakhs to the Transferred Departments; and I may say that allocation was only made after a very full consideration of urgent schemes totalling up to a very much larger figure than Rs 50 lakhs. The estimates that we now present cover a sum of about Rs. 34 lakhs. There is a balance of Rs. 16 lakhs which it is proposed to devote to certain schemes which are not yet ready. They will be put up before the Council, I hope, in August, but the schemes which we lay before the Council to-day will total about Rs. 34 lakhs. Out of this total demand, Rs. 22 lakhs is required for non-recurring expenditure and Rs. 12 lakhs for recurring expenditure. This distribution is, I think, satisfactory because the Council will realise that apart from retrenchment and other matters which are looming before us in the future—apart from large retrenchments—we cannot expect a very great surplus in future years on our present sources of revenue. It would, therefore, not be wise for us to commit ourselves at present to any very large schemes of recurring expenditure, and therefore, as I say, the greater part of the expenditure which is now being placed before the Council is of a non-recurring character. I do not propose to go into the details of the various schemes at the present moment. They will all be found in the little book, and Members and Ministers will of course be prepared to explain their demands when the detailed discussions begin next Friday. All that I desire to do to-day is to explain the circumstances in which these estimates are being placed before the Council.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Before we proceed further, may I be permitted to ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member to enlighten

me on one point? In the book circulated to us, there is a note by Mr. Spry which speaks of drawing upon the balances of Rs. 40 lakhs this year. That is also the expression used by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. I understood that there were no balances to be drawn upon because we started with a deficit budget and money was provided by new taxation Bills; that money has not yet been collected. I for one cannot understand the meaning of the expression "drawing upon the balances."

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: On the 1st of April our balances amounted to Rs. 62 lakhs, that is to say, at the end of the financial year we had to our credit with the Government of India a sum of Rs. 62 lakhs. From that sum we propose to draw Rs. 40 lakhs for expenditure during the current year. Our expenditure covered by the main budget amounted to Rs. 10,25 lakhs. With our new revenue from the recent taxation, we anticipate that our income this year will amount to Rs. 10,45 lakhs, that is to say there will be a surplus of Rs. 20 lakhs this year on the main budget between income and expenditure Besides that, we have Rs. 62 lakhs to our credit from which we propose to draw Rs. 40 lakhs, making a total sum of Rs. 60 lakhs available for expenditure at the present time.

Government Bills.

The Bengal Court-fees (Amendment No. II) Bill, 1922.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Court-fees Act, 1870, with reference to the scale of court-fees in Bengal. This, Sir, is a short and formal matter but I must apologise for having to trouble the Council with it. As the Council know and more especially those members who served with us on the Select Committee on the taxation Bills, we were working all the time at very great pressure and there are a few small mistakes in the Court-fees Bill which have been discovered since, and we desire now to take the earliest opportunity to rectify them. This Bill, Sir, consists of only four clauses. The first clause is simply the title clause. The second clause deals with two or three verbal amendments which I need not trouble the Council by explaining. The third clause is more important but that only desires to rectify an ambiguity which, I think, I can explain very shortly. The Council will remember that in the matter of Probate duties and Succession certificates we introduced a sliding scale in the Bill which was passed last March. We exempted all estates less than Rs. 2,000, between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 10,000 we proposed to charge 2 per cent., between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 50,000, 3 per cent., from Rs. 50,000 to a lakh 4 per cent. and over a lakh, 5 per cent. We intended that these duties should be cumulative, that is to say, all Estates of Rs. 20,000 should pay 2 per cent. on the first Rs. 10,000 and

3 per cent. on the second Rs. 10,000. That was the intention of the Council as it was my own intention. But we have been warned that according to the wording of the Bill, as passed, the Courts may hold that the duties are not cumulative, that is to say, that on an Estate of the value of Rs. 20,000, no duty is to be payable on the first Rs. 10,000 and only 3 per cent. on the second Rs. 10,000. The injustice of this is obvious. It is particularly obvious in regard to a document of Rs. 15,000. Under our proposals the parties would pay Rs. 200 on the first Rs. 10,000 *plus* Rs. 150 on the Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 350 in all, But if the alternative interpretation is to be accepted then the parties will only pay Rs. 150 on the Rs. 5,000 and nothing on the first Rs. 10,000 at all. In other words, the fee on an Estate of Rs. 15,000 would be less than the fee on an Estate of Rs. 10,000. It is quite clear that that was not the intention of the Council and we have been advised to change the wording of the Bill accordingly. Clause 4 declares that the amendment contained in the present Bill shall be deemed to have been made from the date of the passing of the Court-fees Amendment Act, 1922. That is an accepted practice in a measure of this kind and it is still further justified in this case because we have ascertained that in the High Court, at any rate up to this time Court-fees have been paid in the manner which we intended and the alternative interpretation which I have mentioned has not yet been raised by any Court so that no injury will be done to anybody if we give the present Bill retrospective effect from the first of April. But now that it has been my painful duty to make public these doubts and difficulties, it is obvious that the sooner they are removed, the better. I hope therefore, that the Council will accept these motions regarding the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir John Kerr then moved that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir John Kerr then moved that the Bengal Court-fees (Amendment No. II) Bill, 1922, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Calcutta Municipal Bill, 1921.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move "that the Calcutta Municipal Bill, 1921, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. H. P. Duval, Mr. S. W. Goode, Mr. J. N. Gupta, Babu Debi Prosad Khaitan, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Mr. D. J. Cohen, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, Babu Fanindralal De, Mr. D. C. Ghose, Mr. S. M. Bose, Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, Dr. A. Suhrawardy, Mr. W. Rae,

Mr. H. A. Stark, Mr. G. Morgan, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy and the mover, with instructions to submit their report as soon as possible."

On the 22nd November last, the House granted me permission to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act. A week later on the 29th November, the House directed, without a single dissentient vote, that the Bill be circulated with a view to elicit public opinion thereon. The mandate of the House has been duly carried out. Seven months have elapsed during which time the Bill has been before the public bodies concerned, I now ask the House to authorize the Government to proceed a stage further in the progress of the Bill. I beg to move that a Select Committee consisting of the members already mentioned be appointed to consider and report upon this Bill as soon as possible. I think a word of explanation will perhaps be necessary with regard to the phrase "as soon as possible." Sir, my idea is that this Bill should be placed on the Statute Book by the end of January or February next and that the Select Committee should meet, if possible, early in August if not before that time.

The most obvious criticism that will be offered to the formation of the Select Committee such as the one I propose will be that it is too large and perhaps somewhat cumbrous for the transaction of business. I confess, Sir, that from the numerical point of view it cannot be regarded as an ideal committee. An English friend of mine, now alas dead, with whom I was associated in public life, gave me his views as to what an ideal committee should be. It should consist of only three persons—one always absent, the second usually sick in bed, the third doing the work. I am afraid we are not always able in practical life to follow great and excellent ideals. We have to subordinate them to the real and the practical. In any case, there are committees and committees, there are committees which not only deliberate but are also charged with executive work. The Select Committee, which I propose, will only deliberate, and in such a case its representative character is important, and this can only be secured by providing an adequate number. The interests involved are so vast, so varied, and one might say so complicated, that I have felt it my duty to have a fairly large committee, and I am not without hopes that it may result in a full and free discussion in the Select Committee which may help to shorten our debates here.

I may mention in this connection that in 1898, the Select Committee appointed to consider the Calcutta Municipal Bill which is now the law consisted of 9 out of a total of 20 members of the Bengal Legislative Council, or nearly 50 per cent. of the total strength of the Council. My committee consists of 20 members out of a total of 139 or only about 15 per cent.

A motion for the reference of a Bill to a Select Committee affords the opportunity for the discussion of its principles. That is the practice

of the House of Commons. It is also provided by our Rules which indeed enable us to discuss the principles of a Bill when the motion is made for its circulation (Rule 52). As a matter of fact when I moved that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion, there was a full discussion of its principles and of the details so far as they affect those principles. It was a full-dress debate which lasted from 29th November till the 1st December. It seems to me, therefore, unnecessary to go over the old ground again. The cardinal fact which we have to bear in mind—the underlying principle which may be said to shape and mould its provisions is that the Bill seeks to place the municipal system of Calcutta on a line with the newly inaugurated Reforms. Our system of self-government—imperial, provincial as well as local—must form an organic whole, a consistent and homogeneous entity; and it must be strengthened at the base by the liberalization of our local institutions. In any event, the municipal system of Calcutta must be worthy of our great city. Calcutta is the Queen of Eastern cities, combining the amenities of Eastern and Western life and civilization. She is indeed no longer an Imperial city, though we are not without hopes that the honour may yet be restored to her. In any case none can tear away from her brows the laurelled crown which she wears and which is hers, by a right divinor than what earthly powers can bestow. Our people must feel that they are the citizens of a no mean city, and that they can hold their own among the free communities of the Empire. The Bill provides for the democratization of the municipal system of Calcutta, the transfer of supreme authority over our civic affairs to the representatives of the rate-payers, subject to the necessary safeguards and coupled with the fullest justice to all interests. This is the fundamental principle of the Bill; and all its provisions point to this one end. Accordingly we have provided that nine-tenths of the members should be elected, three-fourths by the general electorate. In pursuance of the policy of equal justice to all interests, which I claim to be one of the cardinal features of the Bill, Muhammadan representation has been guaranteed by a number of seats being reserved for the Muhammadan community. European interests have been secured by the provision of special electorates, supplementing the general electorate, and the paramountcy of the Corporation assured by the abolition of co-ordinate authorities. The Corporation, supreme in all affairs, will elect its own speaker and also its chief executive officer, the selection of the latter being subject to confirmation by Government.

Coming events cast their shadows ahead. How popular the provision in the Bill to which I have referred is will appear from the general outburst of enthusiasm which the appointment by Government of Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik as officiating Chairman of the Corporation has evoked among all sections of the community, European and Indian. It is not indeed the honour done to the man, worthy as he is in every

way, but it is the recognition of the principle, of a landmark in the evolution of national progress, which the appointment definitely emphasizes that has been the subject of universal acclaim. To me, Sir, it is exceedingly gratifying to find that this very advanced provision in the Bill has by anticipation received the assent of public opinion. It is an augury of good which has been confirmed by the attitude of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is the most powerful commercial organiation in the country with a great past and great traditions which have left their enduring mark on the history of the province. I rejoice to find that the Chamber have accorded a general support to the provisions of the Bill, and I take it that it indicates the general attitude of the non-official European community in regard to this important measure.

There are some other principles involved in the constitional provisions of the Bill to which reference may be made. The franchise has been lowered; plural voting has been curtailed. Here there is a further advance in democratic principles.

The Bill provides for the creation of a specified number of aldermen to be co-opted by the Corporation. This is in accordance with English practice and is dictated by the clearest considerations of expediency, as enabling men of ripe experience and judgment, but unwilling to face the risks and inconveniences of popular elections, to enter the Corporation.

I recognise that there is a strong feeling among some members of the Corporation for an expansion of the boundaries of Calcutta. We have included in the Bill a small area in Tollygunge to be incorporated in the municipal limits of Calcutta. It is for the Council to decide whether there is to be a further extension of the territorial limits of municipal Calcutta. The Government does not feel justified to proceed further in this connection without a greater unanimity of public opinion.

Then there is the question of women's franchise, for which no provision is made in the Bill. The Government did not feel itself justified in moving in the matter in view of the strong differences of opinion on the subject, as was evidenced by a recent debate in this House. But it will be open to any member of the Select Committee or of the House, to press this view, and it will be for the House to pronounce its decision.

One word more before I take leave of this part of the subject. I have nothing to add to what I have already said regarding communal representation for the Muhammadan community. The Government has stated its views. The matter is left in the hands of the Council and the Government will be guided by its decision. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the Select Committee will give this important question the careful consideration which it deserves.

I now pass on to the consideration of the administrative provisions of the Bill. Here the modifications proposed may be grouped under

two heads—(1) amendments in drafting, and (2) changes in the substantive law. Both have been dictated by the experience of the last 20 years. We have learnt much and we have unlearnt something too.

The outstanding feature of this part of the Bill is that the administrative sections derive their inspiration and justification from the constitutional clauses. Large powers are vested in the Corporation. What is the justification? What is the safeguard against the abuse of these powers? The justification lies in our growing wants and our expanding sanitary ideals. The safeguard is the supremacy of the popular control. If you cannot trust your representatives, whom would you trust? If they go wrong, you can punish them, you can withdraw your confidence from them and you can dismiss them. The Bill thus provides a self-acting check upon the abuse of the extensive powers proposed to be vested in the Corporation. That indeed has been the method of democracy all the world over—a combination of large powers with almost automatic checks against abuse. Look at the great western Republic. It is an incarnation of democratic principles, the President being elected by a sort of *plebiscist*, but he wields authority greater than what is vested in European sovereigns. The checks of democracy are found to be sufficient for all purposes. Look at the large powers which the Local Government Board exercises over the local bodies in England. We have nothing like them here. Municipal commissioners are even liable to be fined. Here again there has been no abuse. The system has worked well. The safeguard of ultimate popular control has been found adequate for all purposes. I for one, Sir, with the feelings, call them prejudice if you like, which the rough and tumble of nearly half a century of public life has created in me, would look with considerable mistrust upon the enlarged powers which it is proposed under the Bill to confer on the Corporation, did I not feel that there was sufficient protection afforded by the democratization of that body.

The new powers which it is proposed to assume all relate more or less to public health and the improvement of the sanitary conditions that prevail in the city. We must reduce our death-rate by improving the health-conditions and we must add to the comfort and convenience of our rate-payers. The sections relating to the sanitation of *bustis* have been the battle-ground of many legal contests in which money and time have been wasted. We propose to remedy this state of things by making more clear and explicit the meaning of the original sections. Here I may invite the attention of the Council to an important change which makes a definite advance in *busti* sanitation. Section 356 of the Bill provides that when a street alignment has been laid down in a *busti*, after the expiry of seven years, the Corporation may direct the owners of the land or the owners and occupiers of the existing huts to remove such huts as fall within such street alignment. The result will be that in congested *bustis*, which are the plague-spots of the city, there will grow up at one stroke a carefully planned net-work of roads.

Further experience has shown that our building regulations, although superior to those of Bombay, need to be strengthened not only to meet our growing requirements but also to withstand the sharp scrutiny to which they are subjected in the law courts. It is within the compass of two sections (364 and 366) that the present Act seeks to govern the development of land for building sites. They have been found to be wholly inadequate, and a Town Planning Bill is now under consideration. But that is for the future. In the meantime, there are isolated insanitary buildings set up when antediluvian standards of sanitation prevailed and which have to be dealt with. We have taken the necessary powers under the Bill. Section 376 of the Bill provides that where a Magistrate has prohibited the use of any building for human habitation, and this order has been in force for 3 months, the Corporation "shall proceed to consider the question of its demolition," no compensation being paid in such a case.

Let me now pass on to the important question of the food adulteration. The Bill deals with it in what I claim to be a comprehensive manner. You will remember that in 1917, an Act was passed to deal with the adulteration of Ghee, which will now be repealed. In 1919, a more comprehensive Act was passed dealing with the question of food adulteration, but it did not apply to Calcutta. It is a matter of common knowledge that the business of profiteering has been developed into a fine art and that the general community suffer in consequence. The Bill seeks to deal with this evil so far as some of the prime necessaries of life are concerned.

Milk is an important article of food in Calcutta and especially among a people the bulk of whom abstain from animal food. In this connection, I should like to mention that the Act makes special provision to ensure the purity of the milk-supply. As you are aware, a very progressive policy in this direction has been adopted in recent years in all great cities in the United Kingdom, and I believe that a former Lord Provost of Glasgowr egarded the entire municipalisation of the city milk-supply as the ideal to be aimed at. In this Bill we do not go so far, but we do propose to give the Corporation powers, in their discretion, to establish dairies and grazing grounds either within or without Calcutta and to establish municipal depôts for the sale of milk and other dairy produce. But the milk-supply of Calcutta for the most part comes from outside our municipal limits, and these sources must be controlled. We have sought to attain this end without encroaching on the functions of neighbouring municipalities by providing that all Calcutta dairy men are to be licensed and Calcutta dairies are to be registered. If we find any dairy man importing dangerous or infected milk, the Corporation may cancel his license and thus indirectly control his source of supply. And provision is made for the inspection by the Health Officers of the sources of milk-supply.

Lastly, the Bill provides for sanction to municipal trading under certain conditions. It is a new departure, but I hope it will be followed by local bodies in the mufassal when it has been justified by experience. It will indirectly serve as an antidote to profiteering and also to the practice followed in certain quarters to suspend business as a sort of protest, thereby causing serious public inconvenience and dislocating the daily life of Calcutta.

Mr. S. MAHBOOB ALEY: Since the introduction of the Bill in this House in November, I have had fuller opportunities of gauging the views of my community, and I find that the most enlightened of them do not favour the creation of a separate electorate for the Muhammadans. I am not, therefore, ashamed to confess that I have become wiser with the lapse of time and I now fully appreciate the cogency of the reasons urged by the Hon'ble the Minister against the creation of a separate electorate for my community, though I had voted for it on the last occasion. At the same time, I am bound to inform you that there is a consensus of opinion in my community that the number of seats allotted to them is not commensurate with their numerical strength and their importance; and I venture to submit that the Muhammadans are entitled to at least 25 seats in the Corporation. The Hon'ble the Minister in justification of the proposed number has compared it with the past representation of the Muhammadans in the Corporation which it is now admitted on all hands was absolutely inadequate. But, Sir, two wrongs do not make a right and if in the past my community has suffered in this matter that is no reason why the admitted injustice in the past should furnish a guide in fixing the number of seats for the Muhammadans in the present Bill. However, we must bear in mind that though theoretically there is no bar to my community to capture one or more seats from the general electorate, yet, in practice, that has been an impossibility; and it would be futile to expect that they would be able to secure one single seat from the general electorate. I would therefore appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister and to this House to allot 25 seats to the Muhammadans, particularly in view of the advance made by the members of our community during the course of 20 years and the important position they occupy in the trade and commerce and the civic life of this city.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABDUS SALAM: It was my misfortune in December last to take part in the discussion relating to this Bill. I feel that what I said on the last occasion was almost all that I had to say. I had something unpleasant to say under the stress of a sense of duty which I owed to myself and to my constituents. It is no pleasure to me to cross swords with the veteran and Hon'ble Knight Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea who has won his spurs in different rôles and on different fields. But I cannot help it as I owe a duty to myself and to the community to which I belong. The acceptance of the present motion to

refer the Bill to the Select Committee would mean that we accept the principle of the Bill which we, Muhammadan members, by a large majority, do not.

As regards Muhammadan representation on the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, I hold, as I said on the last occasion, that the only principle on which there can be proper Moslem representation on such local self-governing bodies is by separate representation, as was conceded in the case of the Legislative Councils after a long and bitter controversy. It is no pleasure to me to go back to those controversies and rip open old sores, but as I owe a duty to myself and to my constituents, I demur to the proposition that has been put forward by the Hon'ble Minister to refer the Bill to the Select Committee, in order to have it placed on record that I do not accept the principle of Muhammadan representation through mixed electorate that he lays down, by reserving seats for Muhammadans.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I cannot hear what you are saying and I think other members cannot hear you also. Will you please speak up? (The member here came nearer to the President's chair.)

Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABDUS SALAM: The Hon'ble the Minister has given 13 seats to Muhammadans and he thinks that by giving 13 seats he has given them a great deal. The Muhammadans are an unfortunate people and so he has rightly stamped their misfortune by allotting to them the unlucky figure 13. This indicates his mental attitude towards Moslems.

[Here followed more interruption by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.]

Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABDUS SALAM: I am entitled to be heard in silence, if not with reverence, as has been the ruling of the Deputy-President in other cases. I want to enter into a personal explanation in regard to the observation which the Hon'ble the Minister made last time challenging my version of what had happened at a conference. He got more excited than myself in spite of his much older age and that was with reference to something which had happened in a conference. He has got the papers of the conference before him and I have also got the papers before me, and I deliberately say what I said on that occasion that I was the only Muhammadan present at the conference when the question of Moslem representation was voted upon and that that statement is absolutely, literally and categorically true, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea notwithstanding. That is all I have to say.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I would like to inquire whether the members of the Select Committee have got each one of them municipal experience—municipal experience in general or experience of the Calcutta Corporation in particular. If there are some who have got no

municipal experience, may I inquire the reason of their inclusion in this committee? This I ask not in a spirit of criticism but in a spirit of inquiry.

I find, to my misfortune, that medical men have been studiously excluded from the Select Committee, although it is a known fact that all municipal questions bristle with public health, and it is a fact that this Council contains one member, a medical man, and a member of the Calcutta Corporation for upwards of 15 years, and this gentleman has been excluded. I will not say anything more at this stage, but I would like to know the particular reason of the Hon'ble Minister why it is that medical men have been excluded. Is it for their over-activity or for their absolute inefficiency?

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I think it is my duty to speak when the constitution of the Select Committee is being debated upon. With regard to the Muhammadan electorate, the Hon'ble Minister assured us during the last session that Government would consider the opinion of the Muhammadans when the time came, and now when the committee is going to be constituted, as my friend Dr. Moitra has said, the doctors have been excluded from the committee, I beg to submit that Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus Salam has been excluded from the committee. Instead of that Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, a young man, has been included in the committee. I beg to submit that the Hon'ble Minister should not make this committee a happy family among themselves. It ought to be a representative committee where all shades of opinion are to be placed, so that any matter which is of importance to the whole community, to the Muhammadans as well as to the Hindus, would be threshed out. That is the only way in which I think Government ought to consider the matter. It is a matter of life and death to the Muhammadans. They want to enter into the Calcutta Corporation, but they are going to be excluded in a way. Thirteen seats have been reserved for the Muhammadans. But what would the Muhammadans get? They will be elected by a mixed electorate and persons like Maulvi Mahboob Aley and Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan who wish to curry favours with communities other than Muhammadan will be selected. I think representative Muhammadans who would fearlessly set forth the views of the Muhammadans ought to be selected whether in the Council or anywhere else when the question of Muhammadan representation is taken into consideration.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is Mr. S. Mahboob Aley on the committee?

Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI: I wish he were.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I put a question some time ago to the Hon'ble Minister about the debate that took place in the Calcutta Corporation with regard to the election of Muhammadans and

papers were laid on the table, and from those papers it was quite clear that the majority of the votes was in favour of a separate electorate for the Muhammadans; but Mr. Syed Erfan Ali, who happened to come after the voting was over, was asked privately to give his opinion and he was in favour of a mixed electorate. But a veteran like the Hon'ble Minister recorded in the answer to my question that the majority was in favour of a mixed electorate. I beg to submit that the Hon'ble Minister knew it perfectly well that the opinion that was expressed by Mr. Syed Erfan Ali, after the voting was over, was of no account whatever, and, therefore, the majority of the Europeans and Indians who were present at the time when the debate took place were in favour of a separate electorate for the Muhammadans. That is the reason why when the Select Committee is going to be constituted there ought to be representative Muhammadans to ventilate their grievances so that there may not be an *ex parte* judgment in the matter. That is the reason why I object to the constitution of the Select Committee as it is.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for having been able to move that the consideration of the Calcutta Municipal Bill be referred to a Select Committee at such an early date—I say advisedly "at such an early date" because I know well, and I think the Hon'ble Minister is also well aware, that public opinion on this big and bulky volume has not yet been received from all quarters, and I know from my own personal experience that not only in the Corporation but in other places, the different public bodies are busy considering the provisions of this Bill, and therefore it cannot be fairly assumed that public opinion has exhausted itself on this question. It will take some time—I believe I am correct in saying not before the Pujas—for the opinion not only of the Corporation but of other public bodies to be forthcoming.

If we go back to the consideration of the Calcutta Municipal Bill in the past, in 1876, in 1888, and in 1899 to which the Hon'ble Minister has specially referred we will find that there has not been such hurry and hustle over Bill of this kind. I devoutly hope and trust that there will be no unusual hurry and hustle over the passage of this Bill on the present occasion. On the last occasion while we were discussing the principles of the Bill we were bemoaning our lot that our powers were all being taken away by the ruthless action of a provincial Governor, and we concentrated our attention mostly on the constitutional chapters and skipped over the administrative portions. I hope that this will not occur on the present occasion. Although the Bill is referred to the Select Committee, I hope they will not hustle over the innumerable provisions of the Bill, but will carefully consider the several provisions and the several parts of the schedule in the light of the criticisms that will be offered.

I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister that after 20 years he has been successful, thanks to the genius of the British Government, to restore to us our lost right. I say he is restoring to us our lost right. Although there was no Reformed Government in those days, the Corporation was supreme in all matters relating to the administration of the city, from 1862 down to 1899. Barring the appointment of the Chairman, everything including his salary, leave and even his removal was left to the supreme control of the Corporation. It was by the reactionary step of a provincial Governor that that privilege was taken away, and I remember well how vigorously the Mon'ble Minister fought against the ruthless vandalism of that Governor. I am glad that the time has now come, thanks to the genius of the British Government, that it has been left to a popular Minister to restore our lost right to us.

Now, Sir, with regard to communal representation, I believe it would be a perennial struggle between our Muhammadan friends and the ministerial party. I think this battle will rage on fiercely to the end, even to the last day when this Bill will emerge from this Council as the law of the land. But I must say one thing, and that is it strikes me that while we are all keen that there should be no communal representation, it seems rather strange that we are according in this very Bill in a sense communal representation to the European community. I think that is a point which ought to be looked into, because a great deal depends on that in connection with the claims of my friends belonging to the Muhammadan as well as to the Marwari community. It was in the Act of 1888 that special seats were reserved for the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades Association. Why should they not come through the general electorates? Why should a body composed of 80 or 100 members be premitted to elect half a dozen members to the Corporation and why should not the general body of the rate-payers of Calcutta be permitted in the same way as is proposed in connection with the Muhammadan representation to elect European members to the Corporation? I think that this anomaly should be removed. I know that the position of the Hon'ble Minister is very delicate and embarrassing, on one side he is a popular representative here—I know he was himself opposed to this—but I know at the same time he has to reconcile conflicting interests. I think that in order to be even-handed in the dispensation of justice in this matter he ought to see that no invidious distinction is made.

As regards the general provisions of the Bill, I do not know what provision is being made with regard to the question of vesting larger powers in the Corporation for the purpose of not only improving the milk-supply—I know that certain powers are proposed to be given—but for the purpose of municipal trading in connection with dairy farms and other things. I think that is essentially necessary for the supply of pure milk and foodstuffs in the city. I am sure the Select Committee

will enter into this question more minutely than has been done in connection with this part of the Bill. My apprehension is that attention will be concentrated on the constitutional chapters of the Bill, that is to say, how many commissioners will be elected, whether there should be Aldermen, a Municipal Commissioner or there should be a Speaker or a Lord Mayor and all that, than to the different provisions of the Bill affecting the everyday lives of the rate-payers. We all know that the rate-payers are more concerned with the detailed provisions of the Bill than with the number and dignity of the Municipal Commissioner—whether a Lord Mayor or Speaker. I do not at the same time wish to minimise the importance of the constitutional chapters of the Bill, but I submit that the rate-payers should be protected from any possible oppression or exaction on the part of the municipal underlings.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: My worthy colleague, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has congratulated the Hon'ble Minister but I think that we should congratulate ourselves for having the opportunity of hearing such an instructive, inspiring and informing address from our revered leader. We should also congratulate ourselves that the tribune of the people still possesses the capacity to make hurried marches towards the attainment of a greater measure of self-government.

It is unfortunate that the question of communal representation has created such a heat in the Council, but I think that there is not much room for it at present.

It seems to me that when the Hon'ble Minister asks that the Bill should go into the Select Committee, he does not at all desire to exclude the discussion of the question of communal representation that might take place over there, and those of us who are of opinion that communal representation is necessary for the Muhammadans at the present moment, should have an ample opportunity of bringing that matter home to the sympathetic Minister. Of course, the matter that has been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, about the selection of the members of the Committee will receive attention at his hands, and, I hope, the name of Khan Bahadur Abdus Salam, the veteran leader of the people, will find a place among the members of the committee as he would be able to give weighty opinions on all matters under discussion. There is one other matter which I would respectfully place before the Hon'ble Minister. It is the question of wider franchise. The Minister is a democrat of democrats and he has said that the franchise should be lowered so that a larger number of the people should have the capacity to guide the actions of those who happen to represent them inside the Calcutta Corporation, but to reduce the amount of qualification from 24 to some figure between the teens will not bring about the result contemplated. Instead of thinking of reducing the franchise from Rs. 24 to Rs. 20 or Rs. 18, it should be reduced to Rs. 2.

Is it not that we are at present thinking of imparting primary education to our countrymen and is it not that that education will enable them within as short a time as possible to think out the best method of improving the condition of their country? And is it not that they will then be in a position to give weighty opinions in matters connected with their welfare? If the Hon'ble Minister thinks that Rs. 2 is too low a figure let him make it Rs. 4 and set free a large number of persons who will make their representatives responsible to them and compel those who are now above them to follow the dictates of the free people.

As for communal representation, I would take leave of the Hon'ble Minister to respectfully draw his attention to what takes place in the mufassal. I quote the example of Chandpur in Eastern Bengal where, in a recent election, out of 8 persons elected to the Local Board, 7 were Muhammadans, and only one was a Hindu. It is a pity that it was so, for it should not be like this; on the other hand, it should have been so arranged that the Hindus too ought to have got an equal chance with the Muhammadans and that they should be in a position to exercise sufficient control over the Muhammadans who happen to be on the local boards. This may possibly be insured by granting communal representation and the Hindus in East Bengal, who have not the ghost of a chance against the Muhammadans, will be equally benefited with the Muhammadans in West Bengal who stand low in the power of purse and the power of number.

My hon'ble friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, has said that this question of communal representation may be a source of perennial discord between the Hindus and the Muhammadans. But my opinion is the other way. If you leave the whole matter to be settled among the Muhammadans themselves, then it will be the Muhammadans who will fall out with each other and not with the Hindus. It will, on the other hand, make for far more amity between them instead of creating any discontent whatsoever. I think it is a subject which is worthy of the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that if the Muhammadan community does not want such a thing as communal representation for some time to come, whether expediency ought to dictate that it should be granted. To my mind, the time will very shortly come when both the communities are sufficiently educated they will learn to respect and trust each other in every way, and the Muhammadans will not ask for communal representation, neither will Hindus of East Bengal think that they have no chance against the Muhammadans. These are the facts which I would respectfully place before the Hon'ble Minister for consideration, and I would ask my Muhammadan friends who think that the reference of the Bill to the Select Committee will preclude the discussion of the question of communal representation, to set their distrust at rest and leave the matter in the hands of the Hon'ble Minister who will certainly give a decision to this question in an impartial manner and hear the voice of the Muhammadan public.

[At this stage the Chair was taken by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.]

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMDADUDDIN AHMED: I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, on the Bill he has asked to be referred to the Select Committee. Whatever the defects in the Bill, we cannot deny that it is an arduous task and must regulate our blame accordingly.

I would like to say a few words on the personnel of the Select Committee. I find that the members there are all taken from the town of Calcutta itself; not a single mufassal member has been taken, and I fail to see the reason which has moved the Hon'ble Minister to exclude the mufassal members. There are in this Council mufassal members—very veteran persons—who are no less able than the Calcutta members to advise him on the Municipal Bill. To name persons would be invidious, but, if necessary, I can do so. There are chairmen, able chairmen of mufassal municipalities, who take a good deal of interest in these affairs, and I think it would be in the fitness of things that some of them at least should be taken on the Select Committee.

As regards the Muhammadans on the Select Committee, I find that there are at least two who have pronounced their views in favour of the present draft Bill. Mr. Syed Nasim Ali may have gone the other way, and Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, whatever his qualifications—he is a young man—ought not to have been taken. But, Sir, there are persons not only Muhammadans also Hindus, who have given their views on the other side and have expressed the opinion that there should be a separate electorate for the Muhammadans. But we are sorry to find that such people have been scrupulously avoided. It may be that it has been done in a casual manner; we have no doubt that the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea—I have the greatest respect for him—is trying his best to do what is proper to steer the vessel clear of all shoals, but beg leave to think that it is not yet too late to include persons who have expressed their views on the other side.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: After the soothing, conciliatory and diplomatic speech of Maulvi Ekramul Huq, I hope the Council will forgive me if I am unable to follow in his trail. It is a matter of the extremest regret that in considering the personnel of the Select Committee, we have to digress into personalities. We find that there are nine Hindu gentlemen on the Select Committee, one of whom is an official and another a semi-official. There are four Muhammadans, two of whom have expressed views which are against communal representation and one of whom, we have just heard, happens to belong—I did not know it before—to the "happy family" of which the Hon'ble Minister is the head——

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: What does the member mean by "happy family"?

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I used this expression as having been used by a previous speaker. It is indeed a matter of regret that even those Hindu members who spoke and sympathised with the Muhammadans in their demand for communal representation have been excluded, but this is not at all surprising when we remember how the Hon'ble Minister was exercised at a time when the Muhammadans were making speeches in favour of communal representation as to whom he should select to the Select Committee in order to obviate as many criticisms as possible. I only wish the Hon'ble Minister had taken courage in both hands, and instead of risking a minority report of one, risked a minority report of four or more. This is not the proper time to judge as to whether communal representation is advisable or not, but I would certainly have wished to see such members who could have pleaded effectively for communal representation before the Select Committee, being included.

I do not wish to say anything more except in reply to an interruption that although youth may not be a crime, old age is an act of piety.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: When I came here, this afternoon, nothing was further from my mind than to make a speech in connection with the motion for reference of the Calcutta Municipal Bill to the Select Committee. But, Dr. Moitra has placed me in a rather difficult situation. My friend seems to think that I should be one of the members of the Select Committee. I thank my friend for that; but I may tell him that without being a member of that body I can serve the Council. I realise that the Select Committee should consist of a limited number of men, and it must have been the endeavour of the Hon'ble Minister to make the selections in such a way that the different communities might find representation there. So he must have felt difficulty in providing for us. I have, therefore, no personal complaint to make, and I wish that my friends would not place me in a delicate position.

One thing, however, that strikes me is the absence of all medical men from the proposed Select Committee. My experience in the Corportation is that the time is not past when the assistance of medical men will be necessary in the Corporation. I wish the day will come when the sanitation questions will be solved and medical men will no longer be required; but that day has not come yet. I do not suggest myself, but I think that there should have been at least one medical man on the Select Committee.

Then I have been sitting as a member of the Corporation Committee which has been doing this very work day after day, and I know what a tremendous amount of work must devolve on the Select Committee. So

any member wishing me to be a member of that Committee must realise what a tremendous responsibility will be placed on my shoulders if I am appointed a member of that Committee. In the Corporation we have been engaged on this work for several months past and we have not finished it. My friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik will tell you that only two-thirds of the work has been done and one-third still remains to be done.

Then, one point to which I would like to draw attention is the representative character of the proposed Committee. I must say that I find certain names of persons whose only claim to be selected is that they represent particular interests. I do not want to go into personalities, but I feel that there are some whose knowledge about the work of the Corporation is absolutely nil, but perhaps; the relieving feature is that they go into the Committee with an open mind.

Some of my friends seem to be anxious about the question of Muhammadan representation. But the difficulty is to find one who would be fit and able and at the same time go with an open mind.

I intend to say a few words about the time to be taken by the Select Committee. The Hon'ble Minister no doubt knows that the Corporation Committee has not yet finished their report. The report will be coming up before the Corporation this week, and it will take several meetings of the Corporation before they pronounce their opinion upon the constitutional portion of the Bill. The other things which are not less important will be next dealt with and the recommendations of the Corporation will not be forthcoming before the middle of August or perhaps September. My friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, whom I am glad to find occupying the Presidential Chair, and it is quite fitting that he should be there when we are discussing the Calcutta Municipal Bill, will also tell you that, before another two months, the Corporation cannot be expected to finish their deliberations on this Bill. However anxious the Hon'ble Minister may be to expedite the matter, I fear that the Corporation will not be able to tackle the whole thing before another three months pass away. I am one of those who have been always anxious that the Calcutta Municipal Bill should be passed as soon as possible, but we find that there are very great difficulties in our way and there are certain things which must not be rushed. I am tempted to make some observations on certain points already touched upon by some of my friends, but I believe, that the proper time will be when the Bill emerges from the Select Committee. At this stage we may well give our support to the reference of the Bill to the Select Committee, which may consist of whatever persons the Hon'ble Minister might think fit to select.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: When the matter was first moved here, I did not examine the personnel of the Committee

carefully and I was about to go away, but after hearing the speeches of the members and carefully examining the personnel, I must say that it is very unsatisfactory.

The first observation that I have to make is that all the members of the Calcutta Corporation who are here should have been made members of the Select Committee. That would have obviated the objection of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur that there are no doctors in the Select Committee; in that case Dr. Dutt or Dr. J. N. Moitra might have been there. On the contrary, the very people who have no interests whatsoever in the Calcutta Corporation have been put on the Committee for no very good reasons.

In the second place, I must admit the justice of the objection raised by my Muhammadan friends who want separate communal representations. I am personally opposed to the principle of communal representation, and must oppose their claims to the best of my power—and I did so when the matter first came before the Council—but let them have fair-play which, I am afraid, they have not got in the Select Committee. By all means let them have fair-play. I find only two names on the Committee who are in favour of communal representation and I say that at least four more men ought to have been there. There are a large body of men who want communal representation. Let them be properly represented on the Committee. I am not afraid of them. In conclusion, I would ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to revise the personnel of the Select Committee.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I will only make a few observations regarding the working classes of Calcutta as affected by the Bill. What I would like to say is that the prosperity of Calcutta as one of the great industrial cities of Asia is mainly due to the manual work of the working classes who are the dwellers of this city. If the franchise is reduced from Rs. 12 to Rs. 6, it will mean a large number of the wage-earning classes coming in as municipal voters.

The second point is that in all the Municipal Acts of the industrial cities of the world they have got compulsory powers of acquiring land for building houses for the working classes. I know that the Calcutta Municipal Bill does provide that power; but the Corporation seldom exercises that power Generally the Corporation views this matter by the monetary return of 1½ per cent. or 2 per cent. which the building of such houses brings which the Corporation thinks is not enough. What I would suggest is that at least 2 to 3 per cent. of the rates should be set apart for building houses for the working classes; and I think nothing short of this will at all make any improvement in the condition of the working classes. It is all very fine to abolish nomination and to have an elected President and all that sort of thing, but that is not the vital matter. The vital matter is the improvement of the conditions

of the people whose manual labour has contributed to the prosperity of the city of Calcutta. So, I would like to urge on the Hon'ble Minister to allow the Corporation to have compulsory power to set apart 2 or 3 per cent. of the rates to be spent on building houses for the working men.

Then, I find that the question of the taxation of the unearned increment of land values is absolutely forgotten, as if such a thing does not enter into any progressive legislation at all. There are many plots of *bustu* lands on which there are only a few thatched houses, and the landlords, realise only a small amount as rent, because they know very well that every year the value on the land increases, and in eight years the price of the land will be doubled or tribled. The Corporation only assess on the rents which the landlords realise. They do not take into consideration the value of the land which is increasing gradually.

With these few observations, I would request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Bill and the members of the Select Committee to see that the poor working classes of Calcutta whose labour has mainly contributed to the prosperity of the second city of the British Empire are not forgotten.

[At this stage the Deputy-President returned and reoccupied the Chair].

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: In rising to reply to the various observations and criticisms that have been offered I think I should begin by extending the olive-branch of peace and including, subject to the approval of the Chair, the names of two gentlemen in the Select Committee. I have obtained the concurrence of those gentlemen whose names have been suggested in the course of the debate. I desire to add to the Select Committee the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and that of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus Salam. These names have been suggested and with your concurrence and their approval, I would include them in the Select Committee.

Then, Sir, some criticisms have been made with regard to the unsatisfactory character of the Select Committee. I think my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur said—I do not find him in his place now—that he was going away but that he had come back to offer his criticisms and to give us the benefit of his wisdom; his dictum was that the personnel of this Committee was highly unsatisfactory. That is a general statement; and I desire to test and analyse it and go to the bedrock of facts and not confine myself to, or allow this Council to be deluded by, a general statement of that kind. Here is the personnel before you. Let me take each one of the names and test the fitness or otherwise of every member of the Committee to serve on that body. The first name is that of Mr. Duval. Well, Mr. Duval was

Deputy-Chairman of the Corporation for a number of years. I suppose he knows something about the Calcutta Municipality, and as he is now Legal Remembrancer, he will be helpful in the discussions that will take place in the Select Committee. Therefore, I do not suppose that my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur considers Mr. Duval to be unsuitable. (A voice: "No.") Mr. Goode was Deputy-Chairman and acting Chairman for sometime; he is now Secretary to Government in the Municipal Department. I do not presume that he will be considered as unfit to serve on the Committee. I do not therefore think that we should exclude him from the Select Committee. (A voice: "No.") I mean to go through the whole list. Then we have got Mr. J. N. Gupta. He is the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and if he comes back he ought to be with us in order to help us in regard to matters affecting the Corporation. I do not suppose that anybody would object to his being on the Committee.

Then comes Babu Debi Prasad Khaitan who is a member of the Corporation and takes an active interest in its affairs. He is a member of this Council; he is a representative of the Marwari community. Therefore, I think I am entitled to place him there, and nobody in his senses ought to say that he is an unsuitable person.

Then we have Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, who has just descended from the Presidential Chair. I do not think he is unfit. Then we go on to the next name Mr. D. J. Cohen. He is a member of the Corporation and a representative of the Jewish community. Then we have Babu Surendra Nath Mallik Is he unfit to serve on the Committee? What has Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur got to say about him? Then there is Babu Fanindralal De, a well-known and respected citizen of Calcutta, owning properties in Calcutta, having a large interest in Calcutta, and a hard-working member of this Council. Then comes Mr. D C Ghose. He is, I think, quite fit to serve on the Committee and is a member of the Corporation. Then we have Mr. S. M Bose. He takes a deep interest in all questions relating to the Corporation and generally in all matters of public interest.

Then with regard to the Muhammadan members: The first name is Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan. Two objections have been raised against him; one is on the ground of his youth; this is a very simple matter, we were all young at one time, and youth is not a crime nor is old age an offence, as I am afraid it seems to be in the opinion of some members of this Council. Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan represents the Muhammadans of the northern division of Calcutta in this Council. Thus he has a great interest in Calcutta, and he is entitled to have a voice in the Bill, and what is more, is in favour of communal representation and against the views which I have ventured to express here in this connection.

Then comes Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, the stoutest (laughter) champion of communal representation in this Council.

Then we have got Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq. I do not know whether he has signified his views with regard to communal representation as yet. You will remember that he sat down in the middle of his speech on the last occasion; therefore, he is an unknown factor on this question. Here we have put in a gentleman whose views have yet to be ascertained and who cannot be said to belong to any particular side.

Then we have Dr. A. Suhrawardy. He is against communal representation; so we have both sides represented.

Next comes Mr. W. R. Rae representing the European community and a respected member of the Corporation.

Then we have Mr. H. A. Stark, a member of the Corporation and a member of this Council representing the Anglo-Indian community; Mr. G. Morgan, a member of the Corporation and a member of this Council representing the Chamber of Commerce here.

Then we have Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, a member of the Corporation and a member of this Council.

Then Mr. Tarit Bhusan Ray, a well-known merchant and a gentleman who takes a great interest in matters concerning Calcutta.

I have gone through the list name by name and I have not yet heard a single dissentient voice raised in this Council against the personnel of anyone of the members of this committee; therefore, I am entitled to hope that the personnel of this committee is as satisfactory as circumstances would permit. I will not say it is a perfect committee; a perfect committee would consist of only three members, or of the whole House. This is a sort of *via media* between the two and it is, in the circumstances, the best for the Government to suggest for the acceptance of this House.

I think I have answered Dr. Moitra who has been good enough to tell us that the members of the committee had no experience. His grievance has been rectified by the inclusion of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. I only hope that as he is a busy medical practitioner, he will be able to spare time to apply himself to this duty. I did not want to disturb medical practitioners or lawyers. There are not many lawyers here: their time means money; I do not want to interfere with their lawful avocations. I trust it will be the verdict of this Council that this is the most satisfactory committee that we could get in the circumstances.

Then criticisms have been offered with regard to the importance that has been attached to the constitutional clauses and the subordinate place which the administrative portions of the Bill have been made to occupy. To that my reply is and it is an *argumentum ad hominem* that it will be open to any member of the Select Committee and to Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, who urged this view, to give to the

administrative sections the prominence in the Bill which they deserve, and I am sure he will be listened to with respect and attention The constitutional clauses overshadow the whole Bill for the simple reason that they vest in the Corporation powers of an exceptional character, and these powers are to be used for the benefit of the people and the rate-payers.

I have only one more remark to make, and I have finished. There will be no hurrying this Bill through the Select Committee of the Council; every proposal that comes before the Select Committee will receive most careful consideration; we do not desire to rush this matter through. We have got two other Bills and in the interests of the mufassal and the people of the mufassal, we want this Bill should be placed upon the Statute Book, as early as possible, in order that the other two Bills which vitally affect their interests, should be taken up early. I have not placed any mufassal member on this committee; they will be put on the other committee. They will not be able to serve on two committees; they will not have the time, and Calcutta men may claim that they should also be placed on the mufassal Municipal Bill committee. Then again, the municipal law of Calcutta is different in essentials from that of the rest of Bengal. That being so, I do not think the mufassal men have any legitimate grievance in not having a place on this committee.

I therefore hope the reference to the Select Committee will be passed and without any dissentient voice.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I suggest one more name, that of Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, the Labour member?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: If you agree, I have no objection. Is he willing to serve on the committee?

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I do not mind.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Then I will include your name.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: May I suggest the name of the Kumar Sahib himself?

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I do not wish to serve on this committee.

The motion that the names of Rai Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Abdus Salam and Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri be added to the list of members of the Select Committee was put and agreed to.

The motion that the Calcutta Municipal Bill, 1921, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, Mr. H. P. Duval, Mr. S. W. Goode, Mr. J. N. Gupta, Babu Debi Prosad Khaitan, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Mr. D. J. Cohen, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, Babu Fanindralal De, Mr. D. C. Ghose, Mr. S. M. Bose, Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, Dr. A. Suhrawardy, Mr. W. R. Rae, Mr. H. A. Stark, Mr. G. Morgan, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Abdus Salam and Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, with instructions to submit their report as soon as possible, was put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 4th July, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, at 3 P.M. on Tuesday the 4th July, 1922.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 88 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Mathurapur Zamindary Company.

***XXXIII. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is a tension of feeling between the tenants and the Mathurapur Zamindary Company, Ltd.?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that the tenants submitted in March last a memorial to His Excellency the Governor in Council stating their grievances and praying for the withdrawal of the summary power conferred on the said Company for the realization of rent under section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act?

(*c*) Is it correct that the said memorial has been referred by the Government to Mr. Jameson, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, for inquiry and report?

(*d*) Is it also correct that Mr. Jameson, while he was Magistrate of Malda, interfered in some cases before the subordinate judge between the said Zamindary Company and the tenants, and his conduct was the subject of adverse criticism by the High Court where the matter came up in appeal?

(*e*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of deputing some other officer to make a local inquiry into the matter?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Since the introduction of the certificate procedure in the Estate of the Mathurapur Zamindary Company, Ltd., in the district of Malda, complaints have been received from time to time against the use of the certificate procedure. On inquiry it has been ascertained that there is no real cause for complaint.

(*b*) Yes; for the reason given in the answer to (*a*) the memorial has been rejected.

(*c*) No; it is entirely incorrect.

(*d*) and (*e*) In view of the answer to (*b*) and (*c*) the question does not arise.

Provident fund for typists and copyists of courts.

***XXXIV. Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) With reference to the resolution regarding typists and copyists of the civil, criminal and revenue courts, passed by this Council on the 31st August, 1921, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the suggestion of the High Court made to the Government of Bengal regarding the creation of a provident fund for them has been accepted by the Government;

(*ii*) if so, whether such a fund has been started, or whether the starting of such a fund is proposed; and

(*iii*) if not, what is the reason for non-acceptance of the suggestion?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of a feeling that exists that the circular of the High Court of the 23rd June, 1921, has failed to meet the grievances complained of by the copyists and typists?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reconsidering the question?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) (*i*) The matter is still under consideration.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The questions do not arise.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Proposed Faridpur-Bhanga Railway.

***XXXV. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether a project for an extension of the Eastern Bengal Railway from Faridpur to Bhanga, on the river Kumar has been pending for a long time?

(*b*) Is it correct that in 1911-12 the district board of Faridpur formulated a scheme of Light Railway from Faridpur to Bhanga and entered into a contract with Messrs. K. M. Dey & Co. of Calcutta as promoters for the execution of this project?

(*c*) Is it not correct that when this project went up to Government for sanction a deputation from Faridpur headed by Babu Ambica

Charan Mazumdar waited upon the then Chairman of the Railway Board, who after a thorough discussion gave an assurance that the projected line would be undertaken as an extension of the Eastern Bengal Railway, and not given to any private company and accordingly the project for the light railway was abandoned?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that shortly after this a regular survey and alignment of a broad gauge line was made from Faridpur to Bhanga but when the war broke out the execution of this short line was suspended?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of inviting the attention of the Railway Board for the execution of this short but much needed line covering only 21 miles at the earliest opportunity?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) A project for a steam tramway or light railway from Faridpur to Bhanga appears to have been initiated by the Faridpur District Board first in 1903. This project did not, however, provide for an extension of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(*b*) In 1911-12, Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co., drew up a scheme at the instance of the District Board of Faridpur, which was forwarded to the Government of Bengal by the Board for examination and expression of opinion. Government are not aware that the Board entered into any contract with Messrs. K. M. Dey & Co. for carrying out the project.

(*c*) Government have no information on the subject of a deputation to the Railway Board.

(*d*) The survey for a broad gauge railway from Faridpur to Bhanga was undertaken in 1914 under the orders of the Railway Board, as part of the proposed Khulna-Barisal-Faridpur Railway. In 1918, the Railway Board decided to defer consideration of the question of financing this branch line, till after the war. In 1920, as a result of a recommendation made by this Government that the question of connecting Barisal by rail with existing and projected lines should be further examined, the Railway Board sanctioned a traffic reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the broad gauge from Faridpur *via* Bhanga to Barisal.

(*e*) The Railway Board's views on the subject of the construction of the Faridpur-Bhanga extension will be invited.

Contai Khas Mahals Managers.

***XXXVI. Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHYAYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a scheme for a time-scale of pay from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150 with quinquennial increment

of Rs. 15 for the Sub-Managers of Contai Khas Mahals has been formulated and submitted to Government for sanction?

(*b*) If so, what action is being taken by Government for sanctioning the scheme?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Board of Revenue proposed to recommend the Government to give retrospective effect to the increment from October, 1920?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A scheme for the revision of the pay of the Sub-Managers of the Contai Khas Mahals has been received and is under the consideration of Government.

Mutation clerks in Contai Khas Mahal.

***XXXVII. Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHYAYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a proposal for making the two posts of the mutation clerks (attached to the Manager's staff of the Contai Khas Mahals) permanent was submitted some time ago by the Board of Revenue?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these posts have been temporary for a long series of years and that the incumbents have not been given the benefit of the conditions of Government service?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of sanctioning these two posts as permanent with retrospective effect?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) These posts have been in existence as temporary posts from 1910-11 on the usual conditions attaching to temporary posts.

(*c*) When the complete scheme, of which this is a part, is received the question of making the posts permanent will be considered.

Budget.

***XXXVIII. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the principle according to which the amounts of expenditure in the budget, both under the voted and the non-voted items, are arrived at, and why the amounts are sometimes increased and sometimes decreased?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): The expenditure provided in the budget is arrived at by a detailed examination of the probable requirements of departments

for the ensuing year, and, under certain heads, after considering the actual accounts figures of the three previous years. The fluctuations are due to various causes, including the extension of sanctioned schemes, the initiation of new schemes, incremental scales of pay, the creation of new posts, variations in the number of officers on leave and retiring, political and economic changes, and the rate of progress of works.

Estimates of new expenditure are framed on the details of the projects which the expenditure is to cover.

Voted and non-voted items of expenditure are subject to the same principles of estimation.

Granting interviews to prisoners in the Alipore Jail.

***XXXIX. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether any restrictions have been put on the granting of interviews to prisoners in the Alipore Jail or in any other jails in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, what are the reasons for this?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) No. The rules regarding the grants of interviews are given in chapter XVII of the Bengal Jail Code read with Rule III, page 158 of the Jail Committee's Report, for ordinary prisoners. These have been temporarily relaxed in the case of special class prisoners, *vide* Rule 1048 J. of the Rules under section 60 of the Prisons Act and certain special instructions for the guidance of persons desirous of obtaining interviews with special class prisoners in the Alipore Jail, of which copies are laid on the table.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Rule under section 60 of the Prisons Act, 1894, referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. XXXIX.

Insert as Chapter XXXIV-A in Jail Code:—

* * * * * * *

1048 J. A special class prisoner shall be permitted to have an interview and write and receive a letter once a fortnight. The Superintendent shall power for special reasons to be recorded, to allow interviews and letters in excess of this limit.

(*N.B.*—Rule 671 will require amendment.)

NOTE. The above rule is prescribed provisionally, pending a decision on the general question of creating a new class of imprisonment.

Special instructions referred to in the reply to clause (a) of Starred Question No. XXXIX, approved in Government Order No. 121 T. R., dated the 2nd June 1922.

* * * * * *

Alipore Central Jail.

"*Interviews with Special Class prisoners.*"

"It is notified for general information that the following are the rules in force for interviews with the above class of prisoners:—

1. (*a*) *Entitled Interviews.*—One interview once a fortnight, with not more than two persons.

(*b*) *Special Interviews.*—In excess of the above, but only for urgent or special reasons may be granted at the discretion of the Superintendent. The reasons for such *special interviews* must be distinctly stated at the time of application.

2. Interviews are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 5 P.M. Interviews will ordinarily be allowed lasting from ten to fifteen minutes.

3 All applications for interviews must be *in writing*. In order to avoid delay applicants are advised, as they will be unaware whether the interviews they desire are "Entitled" or "Special," to give full reasons for the interviews as if they are special interviews. Persons desirous of having interviews with special class prisoners, are requested to apply to the Jail, in the first instance, for the Application for Interview Form, which should be returned to the Jail after being filled in. On receipt of this form the Jail authorities will notify applicants whether or not an interview will be permitted. If permitted, the day and hour on which the applicant should attend will be stated. Arrangements will be made by which application forms can be obtained at the gate of the Jail so that applicants can, if they think fit, fill up the forms at once. They will then obtain, whenever practicable an immediate reply to their applications or be told if there is likely to be any delay This permit must be produced at the Jail gate at the time of interview, and no interview will be allowed without it.

The above rules and all Jail rules relating to the conduct of interviews (copies of which may be seen at the Jail gate) will be strictly enforced."

Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries.

*XL. **Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries under the Government of Bengal on the 31st December, 1920; and

(*ii*) the number of those officers in May, 1922, giving the details of the increase?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to starred question No. XL, by Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar.

Number on the 31st December, 1920—

Eight Secretaries.

Four Under-Secretaries.

Two Under-Secretaries (Public Works Department).

Two Assistant Secretaries.

Number in May, 1922—

Nine Secretaries.

Three Deputy Secretaries.

Two Under-Secretaries.

Two Personal Assistants (Public Works Department).

Seven Assistant Secretaries.

Delay in payment to extra muharrirs in sub-registry offices.

***XLI. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that—

(*i*) the extra muharrirs engaged for copying out documents at the rural sub-registry office are ordinarily subjected to delay of two to three months in payment of the dues of their bills; and

(*ii*) the permanent staff of the rural sub-registry office are paid regularly every month their salaries?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of doing away with this differential treatment?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) (*i*) The bill of the extra establishment is sent first to the District Registrar and then to the Inspector-General of Registration for scrutiny and countersignature. This check is considered desirable. It occupies on an average one and a half month and delay thus occurs in the case of the first month's pay bill of temporary establishment, but thereafter in the case of muharrirs who continue to work on this establishment, pay is drawn regularly every month and it is immaterial whether the remuneration relates to the last month or the month previous to the last.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) There is no differential treatment. The first initial pay of a new extra muharrir is no doubt liable to some delay in payment, but if he is retained he gets his remuneration regularly.

" Servant " defamation case.

***XLII. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the whole cost of what is known as the " Servant Defamation Case " has been borne by the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the amount that the Government has spent in this connection?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) The cost will be borne by Government.

(*b*) The pleaders' bills have not yet been submitted.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Actions on Council resolutions.

65. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state what steps have been taken on the resolutions of this Council which were carried at the last session?

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): The member is referred to the answer given to a somewhat similar question asked by him on the 29th August 1921, to the note to section 78 (Rule 24) of the Bengal Legislative Rules and Standing Orders and to the list kept in the lobby in accordance therewith for the information of members.

65-A. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge be pleased to have the statement of resolution and other papers, which have been laid on lobby for the information of the members published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, for the information of the public at large?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The information is given for the guidance of the members of the Council. I do not think therefore that it is desirable to publish this statement in the newspaper or in the Gazette. I do not see the use of it in any way.

Improvement of communications in Mymensingh.

66. Mr. S. M. BOSE: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the urgent necessity for the development of communication by road and by railway in the district of Mymensingh?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the development of this district is being hampered owing to the lack of the means of communication?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the various extensions of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Railway, have been surveyed?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any of the schemes of the extension of the above Railway are likely to be taken up in the near future?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) The development of road communications in the Mymensingh district is a matter which primarily concerns local bodies. Government have no information in regard to the urgent necessity for constructing new roads.

Government are aware that the extention of railways in the district would be likely to accelerate the development of the area.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government have no information, and the subject is one for decision by the Government of India (Railway Board).

Jharia-Janjail-Shusang-Durgapur Road.

67. Mr. S. M. BOSE: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the neglected state of the road between Jharia-Janjail and Shusang-Durgapur in the subdivision of Netrakona, Mymensingh?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that large quantities of paddy, rice, jute and other country produce are carried along this road?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that several representations have been made to the District Board and to the Government complaining of the state of the road without any effect?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this road is the only means of communication between the Garo Hills and Mymensingh?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the above road is impassable to traffic for several months in the year?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking any steps in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT: (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) to (*f*) Government have no information regarding this road which belongs to the Mymensingh District Board.

Travelling allowances of touring officers of the Education Department.

68. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amounts drawn as travelling allowances by the peripatetic officers of the Department not below the rank of deputy inspector of schools for the period from 1918-19 to 1921-22 (up to December, 1921), noting the annual salary of each such officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: A statement is laid on the Library table.

Council Secretaries.

69. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to say whether it is proposed to appoint Council Secretaries from among the non-official members of the Legislative Council as provided in sub-section (*4*) of section 52 of the Government of India Act? If so, when?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The appointment of Council Secretaries is a matter entirely within the discretion of His Excellency the Governor.

Pargiter's History of the Sundarbans.

70. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that Mr. Pargiter's History of the Sunderbans is out of print and is not available in the market?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say whether he is considering the desirability of directing the reprint and sale of the same?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Mr. Pargiter's History of the Sundarbans is out of print and not available in the Secretariat Book Depôt.

(*b*) The reprint of the book is not under contemplation as there is practically no demand for it.

Kidderpore Bridge.

71. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state

whether he is now in a position to give an approximate date by which the reconstruction of the Kidderpore Bridge over Tolly's Nala is likely to be completed?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): No exact date can be given. As far as can be judged from the present state of the work, it is likely the reconstruction of the Kidderpore bridge will take up to the end of September next.

Lady visitors of jails.

72. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether the non-official visitors of the Bengal jails include any ladies?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of appointing at least one lady visitor from each of the different religious communities for each of the important jails in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This does not arise.

72-A. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of Jails mention any jails in Calcutta which have lady non-official visitors?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I should ask for notice of this question?

Chairman of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta.

73. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state the present monthly salary of the Chairman of the Port Commissioners of Calcutta and the allowances attached to the post?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) the authority which fixed the present pay and allowances of this post;

(*ii*) the pay of the present incumbent in the post which he was occupying before he was chosen for this post; and

(*iii*) the pay of the present incumbent in the post in which he was employed five years ago?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): (*a*) The Chairman of the Port Commissioners of Calcutta receives a salary of Rs. 5,000 per mensem and a house allowance of

Rs. 1,000 per mensem limited to the amount which he actually pays in rent and taxes. He is provided with a motor-car.

(*b*) (*i*) The local Government on the recommendation of the Port Commissioners.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Government have no information.

Alleged Gurkha incident at the Chittagong Railway station.

74. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is correct that over one hundred persons were more or less severely injured and wounded at the time of the Gurkha incident at the Chittagong Railway station on the 20th October, 1921?

(*b*) How did they come by their wounds and injuries?

(*c*) Who ordered the Gurkhas to the Railway station and why? What were the materials for such deputation?

(*d*) Did any responsible officer accompany them?

(*e*) If, so, have the Government obtained any explanation or statement from him?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of laying on the table a copy of such explanation or statement?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) From the report of the inquiry made by Rai Suresh Chandra Singh Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate, published at page 485 of the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 12th April, 1922, it would appear that this number is an exaggeration.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The member is referred to the report of Rai Suresh Chandra Singh Bahadur.

(*e*) One of the officers in command of the contingent of Eastern Frontier Rifles was examined in the course of the inquiry made by Rai Suresh Chandra Singh Bahadur.

(*f*) A copy of his statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in answer to unstarred question No. 74.

Witness No. 16, Menda Ram.—Jamadar of the Eastern Frontier Rifles.

I remember the 20th October last. I received orders from my Subadar to fall in and go to the Railway station with my force. Subadar Aliram and town inspector accompanied us to the Railway station.

We reached the Railway station at about 8-30 P.M. We have 92 sepoys in the force that I conducted to the Railway station.

As we reached the portico we found all the places there including the road literally blocked up by men, we (I, Subadar, town inspector) and reserve inspector went to the Railway station platform. I did so under the orders of the Subadar.

We saw the place on the platform and then three sections of our force came there on the platform. They stood there in lines. The Bengalis attacked the force in the 4th section. This took place under the portico when section 4 was thus attacked and there was a row, the Subadar Sahib inquired what the row was about. Then I went out to the force under the portico and asked some of them what the matter was about. They said that they were attacked by the Bengalis on different sides and that stones had been thrown at them in large numbers I know Pam Ram. He is one of the Gurkha force that was there He told me that some Bengalis tried to snatch off the rifle from his hand At that time Havildar Lowram went to him for his assistance He rescued the rifle of Pam Ram from the hand of the Bengali. Both Pam Ram and Lowram succeeded in rescuing the rifle from the hand of the Bengali after some struggle

Nabinram one of the force was struck on his leg with a stone and received a wound The injury was shown to me by Nabinram One stone hit Kali Charan (rifle-man) one of my force on the left side of the chest It produced inflammation but no wound I also was hit by four pieces of stones there at the time I had thick clothing on my person at the time so the stones that hit me did not produce any wound but they produced swellings and inflammations I reported these facts to the town inspector and to my Subadar Sahib immediately according to the rules It is not a fact that the Gurkhas committed assault upon the Bengalis The Bengalis on the other hand hailed us with shower of stones and continued doing so

The Bengalis were in close contact with the force of the 4th section when I came to that place from inside the station platform We did not drive away the Bengali people After this the 4th section went inside the Railway station and joined the other sections drawn up on the platform as soon as we had blown our whistles Both I and the Subadar Sahib had blown the whistles After the train had left we marched back to our lines by the old Kotwali and the Anderkilla Road under orders of the town inspector of police We reached back the lines at about 12-30

To Court I was coming from inside the platform to the portico when the Bengalis attacked the Gurkhas of the 4th section The force were armed with rifles, kukris and ammunitions It is not a fact that any of the Gurkha force used the butt ends of the rifles or any other part of the gun or other weapons at the time when the Bengalis attacked the Gurkhas

S C SINHA,

Assistant Subdivisional Officer.

Dated the 17th November, 1921.

Sentences on political prisoners.

75. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that sentences passed on persons convicted under the same sections of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908 and of the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911, have often been of varying severity and duration in different cases?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member been drawn to a pamphlet published by Mrs. Tarulata Sen, B.A., of Mymensingh.

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member considering the desirability of having all the judgments passed on non-co-operators (who are still in Jail) scrutinised by two judges of the High Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) There have been no cases under the Perevention of Seditious Meetings Act. As regards the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

75-A. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge aware of complaints of irregularities of procedure contained in the pamphlet published by Mrs. Tarulata Sen? Will not Government move, if there have been irregularities and injustice done?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: If Government are convinced that injustice has been done, Government will certainly move in the matter.

Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

76. Khan Bahadur Maulvi HAFIZAR RAHMAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of Muhammadans amongst the Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the service of Government?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of increasing the number of Muhammadan officers in that Department?

(*c*) How many of the Muhammadan Assistant Surgeons have been promoted to the rank of Civil Surgeon?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons promoted to the grade of Assistant Surgeons; and

(*ii*) how many of them are Muhammadans?

(*e*) Have any Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Surgeons been promoted to the grade of Assistant Surgeon in this Presidency?

(*f*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this?

(*g*) Is it not correct that the only one Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Surgeon, promoted to the grade of Assistant Surgeons in Bihar and Orissa, has been transferred to this Presidency?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Five Civil Assistant Surgeons. Seventeen Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

(*b*) Efficiency is the sole test in respect of these appointments, but when recruitment is made the small number of Muhammadans who are Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons is borne in mind.

(*c*) One officiating at present.

(*d*) (*i*) Five.

(*ii*) One.

(*e*) One transferred from Bihar and Orissa.

(*f*) None found fit and deserving of such promotion.

(*g*) Yes.

Non-stoppage of Darjeeling mail train at Paksey.

77. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that the residents of the town of Pabna are being inconvenienced in consequence of the fact that the Darjeeling mail trains do not stop at Paksey station on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of moving the railway authorities in this matter?

(*c*) If it is not practicable to treat the Paksey station as a regular station for the Darjeeling mail trains, are the Government considering the desirability of moving the railway authorities to treat it in the same way as Barrackpore?

The Hon'ble the NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Government are not aware of the alleged inconvenience.

(*b*) and (*c*) The questions do not arise.

Ishurdi-Shadhuganj Railway.

78. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state when the Government of Bengal moved the Government of India to sanction the construction of the Ishurdi-Shadhuganj Railway line in the district of Pabna in pursuance of the resolution which was moved in the Bengal Legislative Council and accepted by the Government on the 6th February, 1922?

(*b*) What progress has the said scheme made since the acceptance of the resolution?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of urging upon the Railway Board to sanction the scheme early for the construction of this line during this official year?

(*d*) Are the Government in a position to state approximately when the construction of this line is proposed to be taken up?

The Hon'ble the NAWAB SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The resolution of this Council, referred to, was conveyed to the Government of India in a letter dated the 20th February, 1922.

(*b*) Government are unaware that any progress has been made.

(*c*) No; as the Government of India have intimated that the wishes of the Government of Bengal will be borne in mind with a view to giving the project favourable consideration should the opportunity arise.

(*d*) No.

Action on resolution regarding unemployment.

79. Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken on the resolution passed by this Council for the appointment of a Committee in connection with the unemployment problem?

(*b*) If no steps have been taken, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose taking to give effect to that resolution?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): The recommendation made in the resolution is under the consideration of Government.

Public Health Department.

80. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) in detail the number of officers in the Department of Public Health, their respective salaries and work;

(*ii*) the total expenditure incurred for this Department per year for the last three years;

(*iii*) the total expenditure made by Government in anti-malarial and other works in connection with public health (excluding the cost of maintaining the Department) during each of the last three years; and

(*iv*) the total amount spent (1) by the Government, or (2) by the District Board for improving the supply of drinking water in the villages during each of the last three years?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) It would involve considerable labour and expense to prepare the statement which is desired. As for gazetted officers a reference is invited to the Bengal Civil List, pages 392-93, of which a copy can be seen in the Library.

As regards permanent ministerial and other non-gazetted officers in the two branches of the Department under the Director of Public Health and the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, the total number of appointments (including menials) is 264 and their total cost Rs. 1,44,784 per annum.

As regards the work of the Public Health establishment detailed information is not available in any published reports. A statement is however laid on the table showing the nature of work of administrative officers of the Department.

(*ii*) The total expenditure for establishment, grants epidemics, etc., is as follows:—

1918-19—Rs. 7,58,000
1919-20—Rs. 13,97,000
1920-21—Rs 12,47,000.

(*iii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*iv*) Government have not provided funds for improving the water-supply of villages. Separate statistics of expenditure under this head have not been furnished by District Boards but their total expenditure on rural water-supply is as follows:—

1918-19—Rs 7,83,000
1919-20 Rs. 7,00,000
1920-21—Rs. 5,80,054

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (i) of unstarred question No. 80, showing the nature of work of officers in the Department of Public Health.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS	NATURE OF WORK.
Public Health Branch, Director of Public Health, Bengal.	*General Administration of the Department (Sanitary).*
1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria Research, West Bengal. Dr. Khambata.	Inspection of all the malarial tracts in Bengal with a view to ascertain the underlying causes of the prevalence of the disease at those places and investigating the ways and means for its prevention
1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria Research, East Bengal. (Not yet appointed).	
1 Assistant Surgeon (permanent) Dr. Panchanan Sur.	... He is an assistant to the Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria Research, Bengal. It is his special work to supervise the four anti-malarial schemes started and carried on at Jankipur, Meenglas, Singaran Toposi and Banka Valley.

DESIGNATION.	NATURE OF WORK.
1 Assistant Surgeon (temporary) Dr. Banamali Ghosh ...	An assistant to the Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria. The special duty of this Assistant Surgeon is to supervise the work carried on locally by the sub-assistant surgeons in certain selected malarial tracts in Bengal outside Calcutta. Spleen census and blood films are taken of the inhabitants of these places and quinine is distributed to them.
2 Assistant Surgeons (Temporary) Dr. Murari Mohan Basu, Dr Haripada Sarkar. ...	These two Assistant Surgeons are also assistants to the Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria. They are in charge of the malarial survey started in the environs of Calcutta.
1 Sub-Assistant Surgeon (permanent) 16 Sub-Assistant Surgeons (temporary) ...	They are assistant to the four Assistant Surgeons mentioned above and work under their directions.
1 Sub-Assistant Surgeon (temporary) ...	He is detailed to investigate malaria, for the present in the district of Burdwan, on the lines formulated by Sir Leonard Rogers.
1 Entomologist, Bengal Public Health Department.	He does the the entomological work of the Public Health Department at the Malaria Research Laboratory.
8 Surveyors	Their duties are to survey the malaria-affected parts of the environs of Calcutta and draw up maps with special reference to *dobas*, insanitary tanks, *beels* and spleen indices.
1 Assistant Surgeon (temporary) ...	He is placed in immediate charge of the malaria observatory started at Sonarpur (24-Parganas) with funds given by private benevolence.
3 Sub-Assistant Surgeons (temporary) ...	They are all assistants to the Assistant Surgeon at Sonarpur One is in charge of the outdoor dispensary opened at the place and the two others tour round the villages from house to house attending to the cases of malaria reported to them with the ultimate view of detecting the real causes of the fever.
2 Surveyors	Their duties are to survey the malaria-affected parts and draw up maps of the places.
Kala-azar.	
1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Kala-azar Survey.	Inspection of those parts of Bengal which are suspected of being infected with Kala-azar, investigation into the causes of the disease and ascertaining the methods of their prevention.

DESIGNATION.	NATURE OF WORK.
3 Sub-Assistant Surgeons (temporary) ...	They are all assistants to the Assistant Director of Public Health for Kala-azar and work under his direction.
Vaccination and Vital Statistics.	
1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Vaccination and Vital Statistics.	Control and administration of the vaccination work in Bengal.
118 Assistant Superintendents of Vaccination.	Inspection of work in the different districts of Bengal
1 Superintendent, Bengal Vaccine Depôt.	Officer in charge of the Vaccine Depôt at Intally under the Assistant Director of Public Health for Vaccination and Vital Statistics supervises the manufacture and distribution of vaccine lymph throughout Bengal.
6 Depôt Assistants	They are detailed for the special work of manufacturing vaccine lymph at the Vaccine Depôt at Intally
Industrial Hygiene	
1 Assistant Director of Public Health ...	Inspection of the various mills and factories with a view to improve the conditions of the working population in regard to their physical welfare.
School Hygiene	
1 Assistant Director of Public Health on School Medical Inspection.	Inspecting of the schools in Bengal with the view to promote the health conditions of the school boys.
1 Assistant Surgeon	Assistant to the Assistant Director of Public Health for School Hygine.
1 Medical Inspectress of Schools ...	Inspection of the Girls' Schools in Bengal with the object of improving the physical welfare of the school girls
1 Assistant Director of Public Health Presidency Circle 1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Dacca Circle 1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Rajshahi Circle. 1 Assistant Director of Public Health, Burdwan Circle.	They are the local Assistant Directors of Public Health, in charge of the four divisional public health centres. Their main duties are the inspection of the municipalities with a view to help them with suggestions for improvement. They watch the occurrence and spread of epidemics and help the local bodies in combating them.
Sanitary Inspectors' Training Class.	
1 Teacher of Hygiene	He is an assistant surgeon and placed in charge of the Sanitary Inspectors' Training Class which is conducted under the Bengal Public Health Department.

DESIGNATION.	NATURE OF WORK.
Public Health Laboratory.	
1 Director, Public Health Laboratory, Bengal.	Analysis of water and food-stuffs received from the local authorities from all parts of Bengal. He is also the Public Analyst for Western Bengal.
8 Assistant Analysts	Five of the assistant Analysts are chemists and three are bacteriologists. They are all Assistants to the Director of the Laboratory. Six assistant analysts are posted to the main laboratory at Calcutta and two are posted to the Branch Laboratory at Dacca. The Senior Chemist is placed in charge of the Dacca Laboratory. He has been appointed to be the Public Analyst for the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.
Inspector, Septic Tank Installations ...	Inspection of the Septic tanks installed at the various mills and presses in Calcutta and in the areas in the vicinity of Calcutta.
1 Travelling Demonstrator for Public Health Publicity Work.	He is detailed to tour throughout the province of Bengal for Publicity Work. He organises meetings in different localities and delivers lectures on hygiene to the people of the locality assembled there with magic lantern demonstrations.
Engineering Branch.	
Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal.	General Administration of the Department (Engineering). He is an Expert Adviser of the Public Health Board, and of the local Government on all matters relating to sanitary engineering.
3 Executive Engineers and 1 Assistant Engineer.	The whole province is at present divided into 4 divisions and the three Executive Engineers and one assistant Engineer have been placed in charge of them. They prepare sketch and detailed projects, contract drawings, specifications, etc., for water-supply, drainage and sewerage when asked by the Municipalities or District Boards within their respective jurisdiction. The projects when sanctioned are also executed under their supervision They inspect the existing sanitary works (waterworks and drainage) in their divisions and submit recommendations for their improvement. They advise the Municipalities and District Boards on all works relating to Sanitary Engineering.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (iii) of unstarred question No. 80, showing the grants sanctioned for the various water supply drainage and sewerage schemes and expenditure on the anti-malarial works during 1919, 1920 and 1921.

NAME OF WORK.	GOVERNMENT GRANT		
	1919.	1920	1921
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Budge Budge Flood Flush (Drainage).	.....	9,500	.....
Mymensingh waterworks Improvement.	50,000	20,000	.....
Noakhali water supply ...	21,000	.....	.....
Dacca Sewerage ...	3,00,000	2,20,000	3,25,000
Midnapore water supply ...	1,73,000	50,000	.....
Nator ditto ...	3,997	.....	.....
Krishnagar ditto ...	50,000 1,25,000	.....	31,800
Rajbari ditto ...	4,000	.....	.....
Burdwan ditto ...	.....	.....	79,384
Kurseong Sewerage ...	30,000	25,000 24,000	.....
Jangipur anti-malarial works	8,085	5,219	9,919
Meenglas ditto ...	4,090	.....	.....
Singaram ditto ...	965	73	.....
Total ...	7,70,137	3,53,792	4,46,102

Expenditure on Plague and other epidemics including the cost of the special staff.

		Rs.
1918-19	... ...	65,846
1919-20	... ...	129,268
1920-21	... ...	88,395

Female waiting room at Karnapur on Khulna-Bagerhat railway.

81. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is inconvenience felt by the public owing to there being no female waiting-room at Karnapur station (Eastern Bengal Railway)?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that several petitions have been sent to the District Traffic Superintendent, Central Section, and Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, on the subject?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) No.

(*c*) No, but the attention of the Railway management will be invited to the alleged inconvenience.

Dacca-Aricha Railway.

82. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the feasibility of the construction of the Dacca-Aricha Railway?

(*b*) Have the Government submitted to the Government of India any recommendations urging the advisability of the said railway contruction?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay a copy of the letter on the table?

(*d*) When were those recommendations submitted to the Government of India?

(*e*) What reply, if any, has been received?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The report was forwarded to the Railway Department of the Government of India in March, 1922, and they were invited to express an opinion in regard to the advisability of constructing a railway on the route recommended by a majority of the members of the Committee.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) No.

(*e*) The views of the Government of India have not yet been received.

Chakdighi regulator and Shergarh Channel.

83. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether he is aware that the people of Shergarh and the neighbouring villages in the thana Jamalpur in the district of Burdwan, suffer loss annually on account of the heading up of water in the Chakdighi regulator?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the condition of the Shergarh channel which was constructed to drain off the water of the Chakdighi regulator to the Kana Damodar but which has now silted up, and requires re-excavation?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that on the 13th September, 1901, in a letter to Rajani Kanto Banerjee and others the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, promised to take up the cleaning of the Shergarh channel as soon as funds were available?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any expenditure has been incurred since the construction of the drainage channel for removing silt?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) No report of such damage has reached Government.

(*b*) The Shergarh Channel has, it is reported, silted up very little since its construction in 1899.

(*c*) Yes, it was stated in reply to Rajani Kanta Bairagi (not Banerjee) that measures will be taken to widen the Shergarh Drainage Channel as soon as funds are available, but it was subsequently found that the situation would be amply met by the construction of a sluice on the old Shergarh Channel. A sluice was built in 1905 at a cost of Rs. 1,093 and has been working satisfactorily in conjunction with the Chakdighi Regulator in the Kana Damodar.

(*d*) No expenditure has been incurred since the construction of the sluice, in silt clearance, as this has not been found necessary.

83-A. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge be pleased to order an investigation and then come to the conclusion whether any improvement is necessary?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The matter is not of such importance at the present moment as to require investigation; but I shall take such departmental action as I think necessary.

Sub-registry office at Fakirhat.

84. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware of a public demand for a sub-registry at Fakirhat thana in Khulna?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of calling for a report from the Collector of Khulna?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The people of Fakirhat desire to have a local registration office.

(*b*) Government have recently obtained a report from the Collector of Khulna. A registration office at Fakirhat would not be self-supporting and Government are not prepared to incur new expenditure on this account at present.

Travelling allowances of Assistant Inspectors of Schools.

85. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately, together with their pay, the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of the Assistant Inspectors of Schools during the years 1920-21 and 1921-22?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The member is referred to the statement which is laid on the Library table in connection with a similar question asked by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

Government Bill.

The Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I move that the Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. J. Donald, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy Babu Nalini Nath Roy, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, Nawabzada K. M. Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, Mr. W. L. Travers, Babu Brojendra Kishor Ray Chaudhuri and myself, with instructions to submit their report in time for its consideration at the August session of the Council.

At this stage, the discussion is confined to the priciple of the Bill. As Sir Henry Wheeler explained, in introducing the Bill, the sole principle of this Bill is to assimilate the Chaukidari Act in two respects to the Village Self-Government Act. Government had hoped that the Village Self-Government Act, would be fairly quickly extended throughout the country as each district became ready for it. Unfortunately,

owing to various causes, of which non-co-operation is the cheif, the extension of the Village Self-Government Act has been greatly retarded, and it has become necessary to face the fact that the Chaukidari Act will remain governing the rural police for some time to come in many districts. It was therefore considered desirable to bring the Chaukidari Act up to date in these two particulars: the first removes the maximum limit to the pay of chaukidars and the second raises the maximum limit of the tax on any individual. The Bill has been circulated for opinion, and although there are some differences of opinion as to whether there should be a maximum for the pay of chaukidars, there is practically no difference of opinion that owing to the alteration of the economic circumstances, it is necessary to amend section 12 of the Chaukidari Act. As regards section 15, there is also practical unanimity that some alteration is required.

The various suggestions which have been made will be considered in the Select Committee. I may explain that we have recently had occasion to consult our District Officer in a separate connection with regard to chaukidari matters and the reports we have received from all show that they are fully alive to the undesirability of raising largely or generally the chaukidari tax and to the necessity, where it is advisable to raise the chaukidars' wage, of seeing to the utmost that is possible that the money should be provided by reducing the numbers of the chaukidars. The passage of the Bill does not involve any large or general increase of the chaukidari tax. I would ask the Council to pass the motion to refer this Bill to the Select Committee.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I have discussed the principles of the Bill which is a very short one, and which, I submit, has important bearings. I am glad that the authors of the Bill seek to raise the status of the chaukidars. If I remember aright, in the year 1800, the chaukidar was viewed as a peculiar institution in himself in the village life. In 1870, when Act VI was passed, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal thought that the chaukidar was a beast of burden and a menial and his view was that it was necessary to raise his status; at the same time the principal that was in force at the time, the appointment of chaukidars by the Panchayet was viewed with disfavour, and the power to appoint them was given to the Magistrate; that was not so in the old regulation laws. However, the change was made because that was the view also in the other provinces. Now this Bill enunciates the very same principle, namely the appointment of chaukidars by the Magistrate; this will give rise to a difference of opinion. If the appointment were left to the discretion of the Panchayet, that would have been of some solace to them, but I am not in a position to go further into the question now because, since the year 1870, the appointment has been left to the discretion of the magistrates. I do not approve of such a procedure.

The other principle involved in the Bill is the pay of the chaukidar. If you give him a proper status, you must increase his pay; if you do not do that, you will put matters in a difficult position. Looking at the economic condition of the village life, it is necessary that their pay should be increased. But the question which should be the chief item of consideration with the Select Committee is this. Supposing that you increase the pay of the chaukidars, how is the cost to be met? Now, let me submit to the Council that there is considerable discontent in the village on account of the increase of Union and chaukidari rates. If they be further increased, I am sure it will meet with resistance by the villagers; consequently, it will be a matter for the Select Committee to solve this problem. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has given us an idea that the number of chaukidars may perhaps have to be decreased. That is a question which I leave to the Select Committee to consider, but it is a principle which should be thoroughly discussed by them. I am led to think that if the number of chaukidars be decreased, that will not be of advantage to us, because we want a larger number of chaukidars in the villages. I need not dicsuss this at this stage, because it is a well-known fact that dacoities and robberies are committed almost daily in the mufassal, specially in the ruarl portions of the districts. A larger number of chaukidars is necessary for the preservation of peace and order in the villages. These, Sir, are the two principles of the Bill, which, I submit, the Selecc Committee should thoroughly go into and consider.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am very glad that Government have thought it fit to raise the pay of the chaukidars, but I am really sorry to find that objections have been submitted to this provision by some of the local authorities. In 1870, the minimum wage of a labourer was Rs. 2 per month and the maximum was Rs. 6, but circumstances have materially altered since that year. The price of paddy in that year was, I think, not more than 8 annas per maund, whereas the prices of all food-grains and other necessaries of life have now considerably increased, and therefore, I am of opinion that Government will be justified in increasing the pay of the chaukidars. The wages of day labourers now range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per month in the mufassal, and therefore it would be most iniquitous if the pay of the chaukidars is only Rs. 6 per month. It may be argued that the chaukidars have not to work throughout the day and night, but I beg to submit that in order to preserve the life and property of the villagers, it is absolutely necessary that the chaukidars should devote the whole of their time to their work. I also find that the selection of the chaukidars was entrusted to the magistrates only. It appears from the Bill that magistrates in making the selections shall now have to consult the Panchayets. This is a move in the right direction. It also appears that it is proposed to increase the taxes from the maximum of Re. 1

to Rs. 2 per month. This is objected to on several grounds, and I consider them to be quite reasonable, because it is a direct form of taxation, and this form of taxation is highly objected to by the people at large. So I think the salaries of the chaukidars should be paid not by the villagers but by the Government because it is the primary duty of the Government to protect the life and property of the people and specially of the poor villagers and cultivators. It may be asked: "Where is the money to come from?" Sir, it was only the other day that on the suggestion of the Government, we have raised the rate of stamp duty on leases by 50 per cent. we have also increased the rate of court-fees on rent suits by 50 per cent. Therefore, I think I am justified in suggesting that the cost should be met not by the poor villagers and cultivators but by the Government.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I fully share the view which has been expressed by my friend Mr. Addy that there is necessity for increasing the salary of chaukidars. At the same time I cannot understand why the tax upon the villagers should be doubled from Re. 1 to Rs. 2. As a matter of fact a chaukidar has a two-fold character. He keeps watch in the village and, as such, is paid by the villagers. He also assists the police officers in inquiries in reporting and detecting crimes. The village chaukidar is to all intents and purposes not a whole-time man, and, so far as the village watch is concerned, he has to do that duty at night, and so far as his police duties are concerned, I think it is very reasonable that Government should pay him out of the general Exchequer like the members of the Regular Police Force. As far as the Calcutta Police Force are concerned they are maintained and paid out of the general revenue and I see no reason why, for assisting the police, the villagers themselves should be called upon to contribute wholly to the maintenance of the village chaukidars.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I approve of the principle of the Bill and I support the introduction of the Bill. But there is one point that strikes me. The whole cost is going to be met by the people, the taxation will be increased and, therefore, I fail to understand why this rather tardy recognition of the rights of the people has been made in the Bill in the shape of consultation and the consideration of the views of the Panchayets only by the District Magistrate before he fixes the salary of the chaukidars. Why should it not be left to the Panchayet to fix the salary? I fail to understand this point specially in these reformed days when popular Government is the declared policy. I think this seems rather antagonistic to the present policy of the Government and I hope that the point will be fully considered by the Select Committee. In the Bill it is laid down that the District Magistrate will only consider the views of the village Panchayets but the salary is to be fixed by him although the salary will be met by taxing the local people.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: In villages, the chaukidars are appointed to watch at night, but as a matter of fact they seldom do it. Their time is employed in running on errands for police officers, doing service in the house of these officers, and doing many other things which the police want them to do. If they do all these things during the day, it is not possible that they can spend a night in watching over the lives and properties of the villagers. That is the reason why I am asking that if the Select Committee is appointed, they should take into consideration this point, specially in view of the fact that the salary of the chaukidars is to be met by money taxed from the public. At the same time, if Government or the Police Department want to employ them, they ought to pay a share of the salary of the chaukidars. That is the reason why I say that there should be some chaukidars who should be employed for doing service for the police, while others would be wholly employed for keeping watch in the villages at night. All these things ought to be considered by the Select Committee.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I feel that this doubling of the chaukidari tax is very inopportune. It is well-known that in several districts people refuse to pay the present low rate of the chaukidari tax. Is it wise to double the chaukidari tax at this time? I doubt its wisdom. Sir, this is not an easy matter. I quite concede that the village chaukidars should be recruited and organised on a better scale. I quite recognise that it is not right, as some of my friends think, that the Magistrate should have no concern with them whatsoever. Nor do I agree with those gentlemen who consider that the Government should pay a part of the cost. My reason is this, that Government is not a person who will pay from his own pocket. Government will have to tax the people for it and therefore it is simply taxing the people in another form. It is much better that the people should pay direct for the chaukidari tax than they should pay indirectly with an expensive machinery for collection of the taxes, say, road-cess, tax. Therefore I do not agree that the Government should pay a part of the expenditure. But still the great question remains: should the chaukidari tax be doubled? My friends here have mentioned to you that a chaukidar does very little work as a watchman. His only duty—so far as I am aware, I know something about it—is to report murders and other cases to the police and then bring the police to the village and a regular *gol mal* goes on. That is the only work. He does not do the work of watch and ward as he is required to do. Therefore, Sir, so long he has done the work at a salary which nobody has considered insufficient so long and you have not received any representation from the chaukidars that they cannot work on their salary, why should you be so generous to them and double the tax on the people? I say, Sir, those gentlemen here who were glibly acquiescing in the doubling of the tax probably have not to pay themselves. I have to pay something

of it and I hope every man who owns lands in the mufassal will have to pay for this little Bill. It is no question whether I pay or not, but the question is this: are you going to disturb a hornet's nest and raise a storm among the people who refuse to pay a double tax? I therefore request that this matter be carefully considered before it is passed.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I am sorry I cannot welcome the present Bill which is under consideration for more reasons than one. The introduction of the Bill and its passing by this Council mean taxation on the villagers; and taxation for what purpose? To maintain a host of persons who are often engaged to perform the menial duties of the thana officers. I hope I shall not be misunderstood when I say that they are more private servants of the local police officers than servants of the public. Sir, the blue uniform of chaukidars with their blue *pugris* signifies the advent of the *daroga* in the village and they are more public masters than public servants. To tax the people to maintain such a class of persons is a cruel thing and we should not give our assent to it.

Secondly, Sir, apart from the grounds which have been urged with regard to the private service done to local police officers, chaukidars are often engaged to help Government. In fact they are Government servants on a minature scale. It is one of their duties to report crimes and to be present at the thanas twice a week and they are more useful to the Government for the general administrative purpose than to the people for guarding their lives and properties during the night. And as such it is highly desirable that the cost of maintaining these persons should at least be partially borne by Government. As the Bill is now being referred to the Select Committee, my submission is that the members will kindly consider this fact and that the Bill may be translated into an Act with the clause relating to the increment of the tax being left out. With these few remarks I beg to resume my seat.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I find there is a considerable misapprehension with regard to the real intention for the amendment of the Act. It has been said again and again that the chaukidari tax is going to be doubled as the maximum is going to be raised. I would try to clear the misapprehension. At present the maximum is Rs. 12 and there are people in the villages whose circumstances vary to a great extent. There is the landlord and there is the tenant. If the landlord cannot be made to pay more than Rs. 12, the balance is to be paid by the raiyats which would be an injustice. So it is intended that the maximum should be raised. Take, for instance, if Rs. 60 are to be paid by the villagers at present, Rs. 12 is paid by the landlord and Rs. 48 by the tenants, but it is intended in this Bill that in such a case landlords may have to pay Rs. 24 and the rest will be paid by the tenants. That is a move in the right direction, that is

to say, that the man who is able to pay will pay a greater share and so the burden of the poor will be lightened. That is the real intention of the Bill. It is not intended that the tax should be doubled.

In the second place, it is contended that these chaukidars are more useful and serviceable to the thana officers than to the public. Of course in our younger days it was so, but at present things have improved much more and we scarcely find any chaukidar going to the thana and spending his days there. On the contrary, he is useful in the village but one thing cannot be gainsaid and it is this that when the police officers go to the village they require some service from the chaukidars. but that is reasonable because the police officer is a new man to the village. That is one reason why it is said that the chaukidars are the servants of the police officers but I strongly object to that statement.

With regard to the point whether the pay of the chaukidars should be borne by Government or by the villagers, I will say that there is a considerable force in the argument that when the chaukidars as a matter of fact form part of the police force in Bengal, Government should bear the cost. And there is another thing that I would mention that in municipal areas the rate-payers had to bear the cost of the police, but so far as the urban police is concerned the rate-payers have been relieved of their part of the cost. So there is no reason why the burden of the villagers should not also be a little lightened by Government. For that reason I think that a part of the cost should be borne by Government.

As the duties of the chaukidars are being done at present, I would say that there is no concentrated opinion in the village. If one party was to criticise the duties of the chaukidar another party takes up his case. But when there is a Union Board we can expect that there would be a constituted authority and they will be able to exact work from the chaukidars. But now as the circumstances have changed and the cost of living has gone up it is only fair that the pay of the chaukidars should be increased. At the same time in order to meet greater expenditure there should be a little more taxation, but here I think that by reason of raising the maximum, the burden is likely to fall on the richer people and the poor people will not have to suffer. In this respect I think that there is a considerable improvement in the existing Chaukidari Act and it should receive the support of the Council and that it should go to the Select Committee so that all these points may be considered and settled there.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I would like to reserve my remarks on the important question of village-watch till my resolution on the amendment of the Village Self-Government Act comes up for discussion. At present I will confine myself to one or two particular points.

In the first place, I would suggest that when the Bill goes to the Select Committee, the Select Committee should seriously consider whether they can return to the lines of the Act of 1870. The present Village Chaukidari Act is after all a piece of reactionary legislation and if it is again on the anvil for amendment the Select Committee should take good care to see if they can improve it by introducing the provisions of Act VI of 1870. They will see that the Panchayet had more powers and a higher status under the Act of 1870 than under the Act of 1892.

Then, there is another point pertinently raised by Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose as to why the Government should contribute towards the cost of maintenance of these chaukidars. I think that greater authorities than the Rai Bahadur, more closely acquainted with the Police Department, have suggested that under certain conditions the whole cost of the village police should be borne by the provincial Government. Mr. Hughes Buller, the late Inspector-General of Police, suggested that if the police be departmentalised, then the villagers should not bear the whole cost. This was also recognised, so far as I remember, by the Police Committee. I would, therefore, request the Select Committee to consider this matter, *viz.*, whether the Government should bear the increased charges for village police, very carefully.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Of all the unpopular taxes in this province, the chaukidari tax is the most unpopular and I regret that it is proposed to increase this direct taxation on the poor. The places, in which the Village Self-Government Act have been introduced, have given sufficient indication of the way in which an increase in this direct taxation is viewed by the people and I hope that Government will take notice of this attitude of the people and think twice before launching on any further increase in the areas where the Village Self-Government Act has not yet been introduced. The chaukidar is unfortunately the servant of every person in authority who happens to pass through his village and though he is not a whole-time servant, it is sometimes very difficult to know whose servant he is. Again, he is the most unpopular servant of the Crown in the village and it is necessary, as some members have said, and as Government is also aware, that his pay should be increased. But many President Panchayets and many people who have experience of the work of these chaukidars have assured me that they can safely increase the pay of these chaukidars by diminishing their number without increasing the chaukidari tax. I would seriously suggest this method to the Select Committee. If this tax had been proposed to improve the conditions of the villagers, to improve their sanitation, to improve waterways and tanks, something might have been said in favour of this increase. But nothing out of this tax is to be spent towards these. It is to be spent merely to increase establishment charges and I am afraid the people will not tolerate it.

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: I, for myself, cannot welcome his Chaukidari Bill which has been introduced in this Council. My eason is the same as has been previously stated by some former speakers that it means further taxation on the poor people of the village. Vith all due deference to my friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, when he said that the maximum tax of the village will fall pon the zamindars and the minimum upon the tenants, I would say, oming as I do from the mufassal, that the zamindars will not have to ay much. The assessment is made by the Panchayets in consultation ith the Subdivisional Officer and the Subdivisional Officer often signs hatever is brought before him by the Panchayets. I know particularly well that the zamindars are exempted from paying chaukidari tax and he share of the burden falls upon the poor people in every case. My dea is that when the Union Board is established these chaukidars hould be employed with an enhanced pay as whole-time servants, but n any case the chaukidari tax should be as it is.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I have got only ne word to say. I do not understand why there should be so much pposition to the introduction of this measure. I think this measure s considerably overdue and it is only bare justice that the chaukidars ay should be raised above Rs. 6. That salary was fixed in 1870, and o-day we are not living like we did in 1870. The cost of living since 913 has increased 100 per cent. Therefore, I think, the minimum pay f the chaukidars should be Rs. 12. The question of salary should not e left to the discretion of the village Panchayet or the local officer.

There is another point. Of course the increase in taxation is a orollary to the increase in the salary of chaukidars. It follows naturally. It does not matter much who pays the money. The poor chaukidars work harder than the District Board *chaprasis* whose pay is above Rs. 8. He spends sleepless nights in protecting the lives and properies of the villagers and it is only bare justice that he should have a iving wage. I am sure the Select Committee will remember it. Ly suggestion is, that their minimum salary should be Rs. 12 and that t should not be left to the discretion of the President Panchayet or the ocal officers.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, ranslated, is as follows:—It is proposed to refer the Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill to a Select Committee, albeit our vehement pposition against this measure. I am sure our efforts will be in vain. But I should like to say a few words to the members of the Select Committee and I hope that they will listen to me carefully.

I was the President of the Chaukidari Union for over 15 years, and am also the President of the Union Board at present. I must confess that I have thus acquired a great deal of experience in these chaukidari affairs.

I watch very carefully the affairs of my Union and the Union of the Tippera district. The chaukidars and the daffadars, usually get Rs. 5 and Rs. 6, respectively, as their monthly salaries. This allowance, I feel bound to say, is quite adequate, as they are not whole-time servants. On the contrary, the chaukidars live upon other sources of income, as, for example, agriculture and other industrial occupations. In other words, it means that the salary which they get is over and above their ordinary source of income.

They have to watch at night, but, rightly speaking, they lack in the performance of this duty considerably. The reason is not far to seek. After a full day's hard labour, either in the field or elsewhere in their other avocation, they naturally become tired and the inevitable consequence is that they lose their energy to keep up at night, which a chaukidar or a daffadar is supposed to do. Thus it is seen that they are chaukidars and daffadars in name only, and their casual attendance before the thana officers is a part and parcel of their duties only. It does not matter at all whether they keep up at night or not, but if they could dance attendance on the thana officers, their purpose is served. I do not, therefore, think for one single moment that it is at any rate desirable or proper to realise taxes from the poor on this account.

The cost of maintaining the chaukidar according to the pledge given by Lord Cornwallis under Regulation 7 of 1797 is payable out of the proceeds of the Stamp Duty. Under these circumstances, I do not wish to enter into discussion on this score afresh. Sir, whenever there is a vacancy, heaps of people flock round as candidates for the same, and if I am permitted to say so, they do not even hesitate to resort to unfair means with a view to achieving their ends. I, therefore, strongly oppose any increase of their pay and have every reason to trust that the Select Committee, when considering this measure, will attach due importance to my observations.

I have no desire to say anything on other matters relating to this Bill, because several Union Boards have been, and are still being, established in various places under the Village Local Self-Government Act. So far as section 21 of that Act is concerned, it is unnecessary for me to discuss it at present.

Before I resume my seat, I would once again ask the members to see that no increase is given to the maximum pay which has already been fixed for the chaukidars and daffadars.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: The only provision which it is proposed to be made is that the pay of the chaukidars should be fixed in consultation with the Panchayets. This means, Sir, that the pay of the chaukidars will be increased and the net result will be the increased taxation and consequent increased burden on the people. Well, I do not deny that the chaukidars deserve some increment of pay.

The villagers are in a bad plight. They are already groaning under the heavy burden of debt. It is not justifiable to increase their burden any further. The chaukidars are a part of the police force of the country and as it is the primary duty of Government to maintain law and order with the help of the chaukidars, I think Government should pay them. In municipal areas in the mufassal, the town police is paid by Government from the general revenue, the Calcutta Police is paid by the Government from the Government funds. These chaukidars perform exactly the same duties as the town police. If you pay for the town police, why will you not pay for the village police? Are the villagers richer and wealthier than the dwellers of the town of Calcutta? If the answer is in the negative, then, why in the name of justice and fair-play you refuse to maintain your village chaukidars. The reason can only be that villagers failed to represent their views on the executive.

In the earlier days the State used to maintain the chaukidars by assignment of lands and these lands came to be known as chaukidari *chakran* lands. From time immemorial even during the Moslem administration, the chaukidars used to enjoy the lands rent-free and in lieu thereof used to perform the police duties, but in an evil moment the Government thought otherwise. They resumed the *chakran* lands and made them over to zamindars and the people were burdened with the maintenance of the chaukidars. The net result of the resumption of chaukidari lands is that while the zamindars and big landlords make enormous profits, the poor raiyats are sucked for the maintenance of the chaukidars. The chaukidari lands were not settled on the principle of competitive rent, but on the system of prevailing rent, that is to say, on the basis of the rent which was fixed 30 or 40 years ago. If at that time the chaukidari lands had been settled on the basis of competitive rent, further incomes would have been derived and half of the income would have been available for the maintenance of chaukidars. Not only that the injustice is glaring. The zamindars after the resumption of these chaukidari lands settled them with the raiyats and they got heaps of money by way of *nazar* or premium. The thing is this that by virtue of the provisions of the present Chaukidari Act half the rent is paid to the chaukidari fund, but the premium which the landlords got by settling the chaukidari land was not available for the maintenance of the chaukidars which was entirely appropriated by them. I have found that Government settled some lands at Rs. 2 per bigha, but the zamindars put the lands to auction and settled with the highest bidder for Rs. 4, Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 per bigha.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): You cannot go into all these details.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: I say that Government by alienating the chaukidari *chakran* lands made over the resources

to the zamindars and so the people have been deprived of that part of revenue which the zamindars are now enjoying. I think the law must be changed, or at least Government should pay, or the landlords should be made to pay for the maintenance of the chaukidars. I make this suggestion with a view to its being considered by the Select Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I will not detain the Council long as I gather that there is no opposition to the commitment of this Bill to the Select Committee. There are only three points I should like to touch briefly on. The first is that we do not propose to revise the Chaukidari Act. Many proposals have been made in the course of the speeches suggesting that the Act should be amended in this and that particular. The reason for our not taking up the general amendment of the Act is that we have provided for the management of chaukidars under the Village Self-Government Act, and we still trust, *pace* Mr. Dutt, that the Village Self-Government Act will spread rapidly throughout the country and take charge of the chaukidars. The second point is that the Bill is not a Bill to raise the pay of the chaukidars. It is a Bill to remove the bar to the raising of the pay in districts where that raising is considered to be necessary. The third point is that the Bill is not a Bill to raise or double the tax. As I have already said, I am in hopes that the tax will not be substantially increased. The second provision of the Bill does provide for the raising or doubling of the maximum taxation on any individual. It does not necessarily follow that a zamindar who now pays Rs. 12 will have to pay Rs. 24. The importance I attach to the question of the maximum is that the maximum has a tendency to govern the other assessments, if the maximum is low, the whole scale is low and the number of assessees therefore high and the poor are roped in; if we raise our maximum, the poor people will have a chance to escape the taxation.

I would therefore, ask the Council to accept the motion that the Bill be referred to Select Committee.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Wednesday, the 5th July, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 5th July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 104 nominated and elected members.

Oath.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Wilson, I.M.S., took an oath of his allegiance to the Crown.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Reorganisation scheme of sub-registrars and district sub-registrars.

***XLIII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state when the reorganisation scheme, so far as the sub-registrars and district registrars are concerned, will be taken up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling of discontent among these officers owing to their pay and prospects?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION: (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) A scheme for revising the pay of the sub-registrars and to some extent reorganising the Department has been approved by Government and provisions for the expenditure will be made in the August supplementary schedules.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer to the starred question No. XXX (*g*) asked by Babu Bhishmadev Das at the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 10th March, 1922.

Introduction of religious instructions in schools and colleges.

***XLIV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education considering the desirability of introducing religious instruction on catholic lines in

schools and colleges in Bengal through the Pandits and Maulvis and of encouraging the students, especially those living in hostels and Board institutions, to say their daily prayers as far as is practicable?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Government have given attention to this matter for some years and are not prepared to take the initiative in the matter; but Government would welcome workable schemes to this end initiated by the communities concerned in relation to those institutions over which Government have control.

Financial aspects of the Transferred Departments.

***XLV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether there is any provision for appointing a Financial Secretary for scrutinizing the financial aspects of the Transferred Departments?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of making such an appointment for the Transferred Departments?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): (*a*) Legal provision for the appointment of a joint Financial Secretary is contained in Devolution Rule 36. No financial provision has been made in the current year's budget for this post.

(*b*) Not at present.

Delay in the discharge of one Ladoo Singh from Pabna Jail.

***XLVI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) one Ladoo Singh with others was convicted under section 395 by the Additional Sessions Judge of Pabna and Bogra on the 16th October, 1920;

(*ii*) Ladoo Singh and two others filed jail appeals from Nator Sub-Jail to the Hon'ble High Court;

(*iii*) they were acquitted on the 9th May, 1921;

(*iv*) the release order was received by the Pabna Sessions Court on the 12th May, 1921; and

(*v*) Ladoo Singh was actually released from the Pabna Jail on the 6th January, 1922?

(*b*) If so, who was responsible for the delay and what action are the Government taking in the matter?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) (*i*) Ladoo Singh was convicted under section 402 and not under section 395.

(*ii*), (*iii*), (*iv*) and (*v*) Yes.

(*b*) An Assistant Jailor was responsible for the delay and his services have been dispensed with.

Grants for starting model primary schools in municipal areas.

***XLVII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether any grants for starting model primary schools within municipal areas in the mufassal on lines sketched out in Mr. Biss' report have as yet been made?

(*b*) If not, is it the intention to start such schools during the year 1922?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) Grants have been made in four cases, Rangpur, Cossipore-Chitpur, Nalchiti and Basirhat, and further schemes are under consideration.

Relief to the family of the dead and wounded at Salangahat.

***XLVIII. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is in the contemplation of Government to appoint a mixed committee of inquiry to report on the shooting affair at Salangahat in the Serajganj subdivision of the Pabna district on the 27th January, 1922;

(*ii*) whether he is aware that a non-official committee of inquiry has been appointed for the purpose by the people of Pabna; and

(*iii*) whether he is aware that a non-official committee of inquiry has also been appointed for the purpose by the People's Protection League at Calcutta?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the two Committees mentioned above proceeded to Salangahat, examined many witnesses and collected materials about the incident?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that some relief has been given to the families of the dead and wounded by the Salanga Relief Committee organised by the people of Pabna?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps to help the families of the dead and wounded in the said shooting affair?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) (*i*) No. The views of Government regarding this incident were published in resolution No. 4599P., dated 14th March, 1922, together with the report of the magisterial inquiry.

(*ii*) (*iii*) and (*b*) Certain reports to this effect in the newspapers have come to the notice of Government.

(*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) After full consideration Government have decided that there are no cases in which compensation could be given out of public funds.

Erosion of Noakhali town.

***XLIX. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is correct that the river at Noakhali is showing signs of recession and further erosion of the town is not apprehended at present?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of keeping in abeyance the proposal for removing the district headquarters to Maijdi?

(*c*) What is the estimated cost of the removal of the district headquarters?

(*d*) Has any money been already spent on the scheme?

(*e*) If so, what amount has been so spent?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) The rate at which the coast and river bank in the vicinity of Noakhali town is being eroded at the present time is generally less than the rate recorded at the same season in previous years. The channels in front of the town are shallowed now than in recent years. It cannot be stated with any certainty that the town is no longer in danger of destruction.

(*b*) A certain number of buildings have already been lost by erosion and will have to be replaced, and while Government is watching the situation carefully, it is obviously impossible to postpone action if the possibility of the whole work of the district being dislocated is to be avoided.

(*c*) The cost has been roughly estimated at Rs. 20,59,000 for buildings, including Rs. 1,66,333 for land. This cost provides for the complete rebuilding of the station and includes items regarding which orders have not yet been passed. It is not intended to remove the station *en bloc*, but only to replace, as necessary, the demolished buildings.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Rs. 1,52,167 was spent on acquiring land in 1920-21. No expenditure has since been incurred either on land or works.

Treatment of political prisoners.

***L. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state what effect, if any, has been given to the resolution of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy as amended by Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy regarding the treatment of political prisoners passed in this Council on the 7th of February, 1922?

(*b*) If no action has been taken, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The member is referred to the list hanging up in the lobby showing the action taken by Government on the resolution. Special rules regarding the discipline and daily routine of the special class prisoners have since been promulgated. A copy is laid on the table.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Copy of the rules regarding special class prisoners referred to in the reply to starred question No. L.

No 4369R J, dated Calcutta, the 15th April 1922.

From—M. C McALPIN, ESQ., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

To—The Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal

I am directed to refer to your letter No 3072 of the 21st February, 1922, with which you submitted draft rules for the guidance of special class prisoners.

2. The Governor in Council is pleased to direct that in the case of special class prisoners the following changes shall be made in the rules of the Jail Code. These rules will be marked by the letter "S" and are in addition to the rules for special class prisoners inserted as Chapter XXXIV-A of the Jail Code

Add as rule S-395—

The convict officers in special class prisoners' wards shall ordinarily be special class prisoners. If no such prisoner is qualified or available, the Superintendent shall make other arrangements which shall be reported to the Inspector-General of Prisons.

In rule 1048J *substitute* once a fortnight *for* once a month.

Add to rule 1048K—

With the consent of the Superintendent, they may also be allowed magazines and newspapers provided at their own expense and approved by the Superintendent.

Insert the following after Chapter XVI.—

Chapter XVI-A.—Discipline and Daily Routine of Special Prisoners.

S-641.—The barracks and cells shall be unlocked at dawn throughout the year. (NOTE.—But *see* rule 1180 allowing discretion to the Medical Officer in fixing the

hour for opening the wards in cold weather.) Twenty minutes before the opening of the barracks the rising bell or gong shall be sounded, and the watchmen shall then rouse the prisoners. Every prisoner shall fold up his bedding neatly and shall remain quietly by his bed for the purpose of being counted before being taken out of the ward. The convict officers will ascertain if any prisoner is sick or wishes to see the Medical Subordinate

S-642.—After the ward has been opened, they shall be allowed to go to the latrine in batches according to the accommodation in the latrine. Sick prisoners shall be seen by the Medical Subordinate in the ward.

S-643.—Every prisoner shall be allowed to remain at least five minutes in the latrine, and longer if necessary Each latrine parade ought not to occupy more than half an hour; every latrine must, therefore, contain compartments in the proportion of 1 to 6 of the number of prisoners to use it, and the washing place contiguous to each latrine shall have one compartment to every four latrine seats.

S-644.—Separate bathing places shall be provided for special class prisoners. After the latrine parade, the prisoners shall go to the bathing places The time allowed for bathing shall be such as to allow every prisoner ten minutes for bathing; if necessary, the prisoners will go in batches

After bathing, the early morning meal shall be distributed At this time the Jailor shall arrange any alterations of the gangs that may be necessary, noting any change of work he may order in the prisoners' history tickets, or causing such entries to be made under his initials, and having the alterations entered in the gang books (*See* rule 775 regarding allotment of tasks.)

S-645 On completion of the early morning meal the prisoners shall be allowed to wash their hands, after which the rolls shall be called, and the prisoners shall go to their working places

S-646 Special class prisoners shall at all time behave in an orderly way, but shall not be required to move in files, nor sit in files at meals nor salute officers and visitors. When addressing or addressed by a jail officer or visitor, they shall stand quietly but are not required to raise the hands so as to display the palms.

S-647 — Special class prisoners shall not be required to carry their kit with them. At working time the kit shall be left in the ward or cells in charge of a convict officer.

S-650 — Special class prisoners shall be given their meals in sheds or other suitable shelter When the bell for the midday parades rings, the prisoners shall go to the feeding shed They shall then go to the bathing places as provided in rule S-644 After bathing they shall return to the feeding shed, and the meal shall be distributed under the superintendence of a convict officer They shall wash their own feeding utensils, but the Superintendent can, at his discretion, allow the employment of an ordinary prisoner for this purpose Complaints about food shall be reported at once to the jailor as provided in rule 650.

After the meal prisoners shall be allowed to go to the latrine as provided in rule S-642. They shall then return to their ward or cells.

S-651.—Prisoners will resume work in the afternoon on the sound of a bell or gong and cease work when the gong is again sounded in the evening and go through the same procedure as in the morning, except that bathing in the evening should not be insisted on except washing of hands, feet and face.

S-653.—A night latrine shall be provided for each ward, and shall be screened off for purposes of decency. Prisoners shall use the night latrine for defæcation only when actually necessary, and, as a rule, it should only be used in cases of sickness. Any prisoner who uses the latrine at night shall be reported by the watchman and dealt with as ordered in rule 649. If he is found to be sick, he shall immediately be placed under medical observation apart from other patients.

Each cell is provided with two baskets but these should not ordinarily be used expect for the purpose of urination. If otherwise used the fact should be brought to the notice of the Medical Officer.

S-654-655.—Parades will be held on Monday morning to hear complaints, but this does not preclude any prisoner from interviewing the Superintendent at any other time with legitimate complaints.

S-657.—Silence shall be maintained during work except when any enquiry or instructions relating to work are necessary. All loud talking, singing or quarrelling is prohibited, but out of working hours prisoners shall be permitted to converse quietly. Between lock-up and sleeping time prisoners may also read aloud from books provided from the jail library.

S-659.—Soap shall be provided to enable prisoners to wash their clothes. At the discretion of the Superintendent a prisoner washerman may be employed to wash the clothes of special class prisoners.

S-660.—Special class prisoners are exempted from the operation of rule 660, subject to the provision that if the Medical officer deems it necessary to clip the hair or shave the head of any prisoner, this shall be done on his written order entered on the prisoner's history ticket.

3. Rules 648, 649, 652, 656, 658 and 661 to 670 of the Jail Code apply to special class prisoners as well as to ordinary prisoners.

4 The following instructions apply to all prisoners, whether special class or ordinary, convicted under the Seditious Meetings Act, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, Chapter VI, and section 153A of the Indian Penal Code and section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code and prisoners convicted of other offences known to have been committed in connection with the non-co-operation or similar political movement:—

(*i*) The punishment of whipping shall not be inflicted on such prisoners except in extreme cases and with the previous sanction of Government.

(*ii*) The punishment of handcuffs and fetters should be imposed on such prisoners sparingly, only when clearly necessary, and when the Superintendent is of opinion that jail discipline cannot otherwise be maintained. A report should be submitted to Government through the Inspector-General of Prisons, whenever such a punishment is inflicted on prisoners of this class. If the prisoner is a special class prisoner, the previous sanction of Government should be obtained.

5. The above rules and instructions are prescribed provisionally pending a decision on the general question of creating a new class of imprisonment.

6. Subject to the modifications stated above, the rules of the Jail Code apply to special class prisoners and to all so-called political prisoners, and the Governor in Council expects that the rules will be enforced in the manner prescribed by rule 187 of the Code. I am directed to draw your special attention to the necessity of assigning work to all prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and of seeing that the work is properly done in accordance with the Jail Code.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Transfer of the establishments of certain schools to other departments.

86. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the dates on which the following establishments were handed over to other departments:—

(I) the Technical schools,

(II) the European schools,

(III) the Calcutta Art School, and

(IV) the Weaving School of Serampore;

(*ii*) the total number of vacancies in the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service created owing to the above transfer before the 1st September, 1921;

(*iii*) the way in which the above vacancies have been filled up before the reorganisation; and

(*iv*) the scales of pay awarded to the teachers of the above mentioned institutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*i*) I, III and IV were handed over to the Department of Industries on the 16th October, 1920.

(II) remains under Education Department in Reserved Department.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) As I, III and IV were handed over with their posts, no vacancies in Education Department resulted; European schools were reorganised with effect from the 1st September, 1921, so no vacancies resulted before that date.

(*iv*) It is understood that the reorganisation of the services under the Department of Industries is under consideration. The posts in European schools have been sanctioned as follows:—

Posts in European Schools sanctioned from 1st September, 1921.

	Posts.
Indian Educational Service	1
Rs. 400—40—800	1
„ 400—30—700	1
„ 400—25—700	5
„ 400—20—600	3

					Posts.
Rs. 350—20—550	...	...	...	...	5
„ 300—20—500	...	...	..	...	2
„ 275—15—425	...	...	...	...	2
„ 250—10—350	...	...	...	...	3
„ 220—15—370	...	...	...	...	10
„ 200—10—300	...	...	..	...	1
„ 180—10—280	...	...	...	...	2
„ 180—10—260	...	..	...	...	1
„ 160—5—200	..	...	...	...	2
„ 150—5—180	...	..	...	...	10
„ 100—5—200	...	...	...	...	2
„ 100—10—250	...	...	...	...	1
„ 60—2—80	...	...		...	2
„ 40—2—60	...	..	..	..	2
			Total	...	56

Rules for admission into examination for the Bengal Civil Service.

87. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware that in clause 6 of Government notification No. 5798A., dated the 27th May, 1922, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th June, 1922, a person desiring to be admitted at the examination for recruitment to certain services is to apply to the head of the college in which he is studying at the time of the application or in which he has previously studied for a period of not less than three years?

(*b*) Is it not correct that many of the students do not read in any college for more than two years, specially students reading in 2nd grade colleges and then joining 1st grade colleges and the University College, and that in that case they have to apply through the Director of Public Instruction?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that applications of this kind are likely to be fairly numerous?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction has only 13 nominations to make?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reducing this period of three years to two years?

(*f*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of giving the Director of Public Instruction the power of nominating at least 50 students every year?

(*g*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the University College has not been included in the list of colleges entitled to nominate candidates for admission into examination for the Bengal Civil Service?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending this privilege to the University College as well?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*), (*f*) The difficulty is realised and the rule will be amended to provide that candidates may apply to the Head of the College from which they graduated.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) Candidates continuing post-graduate studies at the University College may apply to the College from which they graduated.

Reconstitution of the Calcutta University.

88. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to introduce into this Council legislative measures for the reconstitution of the University of Calcutta in compliance with the recommendations of this Council? If so, when?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: An officer of the department is preparing a first draft for the purpose of reconstituting the University of Calcutta mainly on an elective basis, with due regard to the interests of various communities as also of different educational subjects and interests. It is hoped that it will be possible to introduce legislation during next cold weather.

Indian Educational Service.

89. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any appointments to the Indian Educational Service in connection with the Department of Education, Bengal, have been made locally from this province during the years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the persons so appointed and the dates of their appointment?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to question No. 89, showing the appointments made locally from this province to the Indian Educational Service during the years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922.

Number of appointments.	Names of officers appointed locally.	Date of appointment.	REMARKS.
	1919.		
1	Rai P. K. Basu Bahadur ...	14th May, 1919 ...	Promoted from the Bengal Educational Service.
2	Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
3	Mr. B C. Gupta ...	Ditto ...	Made permanent.
4	Mr. P. C. Mahalanabis ...	Ditto.	
5	Miss G M. Wright ...	5th February, 1919 ...	Made permanent.
	1920.		
1	Rai K K. Banerji Bahadur ...	10th January, 1920 ..	Promoted from the Bengal Educational Service.
2	Mr R. N. Sen ...	10th April, 1920	
	1921.		
1	Rai J. B. Bhaduri Bahadur ...	23rd February, 1921...	Promoted from the Bengal Educational Service.
2	Mr. J. V. Francies ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
3	Mr. S. C. De ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
4	Mr. R. R. Biswas ...	Ditto ...	Ditto
5	Mr H. C. Banarji ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
6	Dr A. N. Mukherji ...	Ditto ...	Ditto
7	Mr. B. G. Mukherji ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
8	Mr. S. P. Das ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
9	Shams-ul-ulama Mr. Abu Nasr Muhammad Wahid.	Ditto ...	Ditto
10	Dr. Panchanan Neogi ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.

Number of appointments.	Names of officers appointed locally.	Date of appointment.	REMARKS.
11	Shams-ul-ulama Mr. Kamal-uddin Ahmad.	23rd February, 1921...	Promoted from the Bengal Educational Service
12	Mr Matloob Ahmad Khan Chaudhuri.	Ditto ...	Ditto
13	Mr P. N Chatterji ...	Ditto ...	Ditto
14	Pandit Ashutosh Shastri ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
15	Mr. S N. Maitra ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	1922.		
	Nil.		

Appointment of additional Judge from the Bar.

90. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether Government intend in the course of this year to appoint an additional district judge from the Bar?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The matter is under consideration.

Pay and prospect of the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail.

91. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government have taken any action on the memorial submitted in November 1920 by the educational staff of the Alipore Juvenile Jail for amelioration of their pay and prospects;

(*ii*) whether the scheme, if any, for the betterment of pay and prospects of the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail has been framed in the light of the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the question of the reorganisation of the Educational Services below the Bengal Educational Service (published under the Education Department resolution No. 464 Edn., of 3rd March, 1922);

(*iii*) whether the educational staff of the Alipore Juvenile Jail were mostly recruited by the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division;

(*iv*) whether it is the intention of the Government to place the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail on an equal footing in point of remuneration with the teachers of equal status and similar qualification in the Education Department and to grant free quarters or house allowance;

(*v*) whether the war allowance so long enjoyed by the educational staff of the Alipore Juvenile Jail has recently been stopped; if so, why;

(*vi*) whether the members of all other branches of the Jail Department, namely, jailors' staff, ministerial officers, etc. have been granted either a revision of pay or an *ad interim* allowance;

(*vii*) whether there is any prospect of giving effect to the scheme referred to in (*ii*) at an early date; and

(*viii*) if not, whether the Government propose introducing an *ad interim* allowance for the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The member is referred to the answer to a question on this subject asked by Professor S. C. Mukherji at this meeting.

Reduction in the price of drugs.

92. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is correct that the income from the sale of drugs produced and manufactured in the plantations covers more than four times the cost of maintenance of the plantations?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member contemplating any further reduction in the price of the drugs?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the total output of the drugs which will meet the total demand for the whole province?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the plantations in the near future for the production of drugs equal to the demand of the province?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE](the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Government are advised that it is practically impossible to estimate a figure with any pretence to accuracy.

(*d*) This question has been considered, once in 1907 and again in 1918, when the whole of India was searched for areas for new plantations; the output of the present plantations is gradually on the increase, but it is reported that it is not possible to extend them in this province.

Administration of the affairs of public health in the excluded areas.

93. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the affairs of public health in the excluded areas are administered by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government or whether they are classed as reserved items?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state under whose administration the Darjeeling Model Laboratory for food analysis and clinical work has been placed?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Public health administration in excluded areas is dealt with in the Revenue Department.

(*b*) The laboratory, like other matters of public health administration in the excluded areas, comes within the purview of the Revenue Department.

Scheme for recruitment in the Registration Department.

94. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether there is any draft scheme ready for the recruitment of officers in the next year (1922-23) for the Registration Department?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay the draft scheme on the table for the information of the Council?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of presenting such schemes for discussion and consideration by the Council before final adoption?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) The question does not arise.

Power of the Governor with his Ministers in regard to certain appointments.

95. Mr. D. C. GHOSE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what powers are vested in, and can be exercised by, His Excellency the Governor acting with his Ministers to appoint persons not being members of the Indian Civil Service to posts other than those specified in the Third Schedule to the Government of India Act as "offices reserved to the Indian Civil Service"?

(*b*) Have the local Government in the Transferred Departments made any appointments in the exercise of such powers?

(*c*) Have the Government of India issued to the local Government any instructions regarding this matter?

(*d*) If so, do these instructions materially restrict the rights of the local Government as exercised up to now?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of publishing these instructions and of laying on the table copies of the correspondence regarding this matter?

(*f*) Is any distinction made between "offices in the Indian Civil Service" and "offices reserved to members of the Indian Civil Service"?

(*g*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a complete list of offices which fall under either of these heads, so far as Bengal is concerned?

(*h*) Have any rules been prescribed by the Government of India under section 99 (*2*) of the Government of India Act? If so, what are they?

(*i*) Are there any posts besides the posts specially reserved by statute to the Indian Civil Service under section 98 of the Government of India Act, which the members of the Service in practice claim as of right as being reserved to them? If so, what are those posts?

(*j*) If the answer to (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there is any statutory authority for such practice?

(*k*) Is there a provincial schedule of appointments in the Indian Civil Service?

(*l*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of publishing it, and stating the basis on which such schedule has been framed, and also stating the authority which frames or modifies it?

(*m*) Are the Government in a position to state their future policy regarding this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) The powers of the local Government in this respect are regulated by section 99 of the Government of India Act and the rules framed thereunder which were published with the Government of India notification No. F. 438 (Estabts), dated the 30th March, 1922.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Government of India recently addressed the local Government explaining the provisions of the law and rules governing this matter. This communication did not impose any further restrictions on the existing rights of the local Government, but corrected a misapprehension under which this Government was labouring with regard to the extent of its rights in the matter.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) A list is laid on the table.

(*h*) Yes. They were published in Part I A of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 12th April, 1922.

(*i*) Yes. The normal rule is that no person may be appointed without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State in Council to any post borne on the provincial cadre of an all-India service, unless such person is a member of that service or is already holding a post borne on its cadre. The posts are enumerated in the list referred to in answer to (*g*).

(*j*) Yes. Statutory authority is given by Rule VII of the Rules made by the Secretary of State in Council under section 96 B (2) of the Government of India Act.

(*k*) There is a provincial schedule of superior appointments in the Indian Civil Service.

(*l*) The schedule, which is based on the orders of the Secretary of State and is liable to modification under his orders, will be found on page 50 of the Civil List.

(*m*) The question is not understood. The local Government is concerned with following the instructions laid down by the Secretary of State and not with framing of policy in the matter.

Statement referred to in answer (g) to question No. 95.

A.—Offices reserved to members of the Indian Civil Service under section 96 of the Government of India Act.

Member of the Board of Revenue.

Commissioner of Revenue.

Secretaries in every department, except the Public Works or Marine Department.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
District or Sessions Judge.
Additional District or Sessions Judge.
District Magistrate.
Collector of Revenue.

B.—Offices in the Indian Civil Service.

Offices specified above.
Member of Executive Council (two).
High Court Judge (five).
Chairman, Calcutta Corporation.
Chairman, Calcutta Improvement Trust.
Legal Remembrancer
Deputy Secretaries.
Commissioner of Excise.
Deputy Commissioners of non-regulation districts.
Director of Land Records
Registrar, Co-operative Societies
Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies.
Collector of Stamp Revenue.
Settlement Officers (graded with Magistrates)
Additional District Magistrates.
Registrar, High Court.
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.
Under-Secretary.
Assistant Magistrates and Collectors.

Shooting at Shalangahat.

96. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the shooting at Shalangahat in the subdivision of Serajganj, district Pabna, on the 27th January, 1922, by the armed police?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what person gave the order to fire and what led such person to give the order to fire in the hât?

(*c*) How many persons died and were wounded on account of this shooting?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the firing was ordered in the midst of a cattle market?

(*e*) Is it a fact that on one of the carts despatched to Serajganj, dead and wounded persons were tied together and one wounded man was not given any blanket, and that as the result of the exposure he died on the way?

(*f*) Was there any complaint from the shopkeepers about the volunteers who were picketing there?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table copies of the complaints lodged by the shopkeepers and the report of the Sub-Inspector of the police-station and other reports concerning the matter?

(*h*) If no complaints were made, why did the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police go to the hât with armed policemen?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspector in charge of the Ullapara police-station visited Shalangahat a day or two before the occurrence and, taking his stand on the raised ground within the enclosure of the excise shop, took a view of the locality?

(*j*) Is it a fact that on the day of the occurrence the armed policemen were posted very near the place examined by the Sub-Inspector and shooting commenced from this place?

(*k*) Is it a fact that police guards were stationed in the Serajganj hospital to keep watch on the persons who had been wounded at Shalangahat and sent to that hospital for treatment?

(*l*) If the answer to (*k*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*e*), (*h*) The member is referred to the report of the magisterial inquiry into this occurrence which was published with Government resolution No. 4599 P., dated the 14th March, 1922, and printed in the supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 22nd March.

(*d*) No.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The complaints were verbal.

(*i*) No.

(*j*) No.

(*k*) Yes.

(*l*) As cases under sections 147 and 353, Indian Penal Code, against the wounded persons were then under investigation and there was a possibility of their escape, this guard was posted.

Stud bulls in agricultural farms.

97. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any stud bulls are maintained by the Department in their agricultural farms?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of keeping such bulls for the improvement of the breed of cattle?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Stud bulls are now maintained at Dacca, Chinsura, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Rangpur Demonstration Farms and at Rangpur Cattle Farm. Bulls have also recently been obtained for Berhampore, Bankura and Burdwan Farms and it is hoped to send out bulls to Mymensingh, Comilla and Barisal Farms this autumn

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Kalapara Forest Department.

98. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether he is aware that a fee of 4 annas is realised by the Forest Department of Kalapara in the district of Bakarganj from the people who take wood from the Government Forest for fuel and other purposes?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that an extra fee of 8 annas is realised by the Forest Department from the people in exchange for the sale of one matchbox or a small phial of quinine or any medicinal mixture or some such thing?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The question does not arise. Government, however, will cause further inquiries to satisfy itself.

Additional revenue.

99. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of additional revenue expected to be derived on account of the new taxation measures?

(*b*) How has the said additional amount been allocated between the Reserved and the Transferred Departments?

(*c*) What is the total amount granted to these Departments under the Budget Estimates and the Supplementary allotment?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The revenue estimated to accrue from the new taxation measures is Rs. 1,40,00,000. Of this amount Rs. 1,21,04,000 will be absorbed in meeting the deficit of the province. To the surplus (Rs. 18,96,000) have been added Rs. 40,00,000 withdrawn from the provincial balances with the sanction of the Government of India. Of the total (Rs. 58,96,000) Rs. 50,00,000 have been allotted for new expenditure as follows:—

	Rs.
Reserved Departments	17,58,000
Transferred Departments	32,42,000

The balance (Rs. 8,96,000) is to meet the charges of any loan that may be raised to finance capital expenditure.

(*c*) The figures are given below:—

		Reserved.	Transferred.
		Rs.	Rs
Budget, 1922-23	...	6,77,14,000	3,47,06,000
Supplementary estimates	...	17,58,140	32,41,860
Total	...	6,94,72,140	3,79,47,860

Sketch map of irrigation work.

100. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table a sketch map of Bengal showing the important irrigation works undertaken by the Irrigation Department in each district during the last 50 years?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): A map of Bengal, showing the only purely irrigation works in Bengal, namely, the Midnapore and Eden Canals, is laid on the Library table (canal shown in blue lines). The Orissa, Sone, Tribeni, Dhaka and Teur Canals, although they were constructed by this Department, are not shown, as they are not now in this province.

If the member means by "Irrigation Works" irrigation and drainage works, the number of such works undertaken during the last 50 years is so great that they cannot conveniently be shown on the map.

Pay and prospects of the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail.

101. Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government have taken any action on the memorial submitted in November, 1920, by the educational staff of the Alipore Juvenile Jail for amelioration of their pay and prospects;

(*ii*) whether the scheme, if any, for the betterment of pay and prospects of the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail has been framed in the light of the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the question of the reorganisation of the Educational Services below the Bengal Educational Service (published under the Educational Department resolution No. 464 Edn. of 3rd March, 1922);

(*iii*) whether the educational staff of the Alipore Juvenile Jail were mostly recruited by the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division;

(*iv*) is it a fact that their duties are considered more onerous;

(*v*) whether it is the intention of the Government to place the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail on a better footing in point of remuneration than the teachers of equal status and similar qualifications in the Education Department and to grant to them free quarters or a house allowance;

(*vi*) whether the war allowance so long enjoyed by the educational staff of the Alipore Juvenile Jail has recently been stopped; if so, why;

(*vii*) whether the members of all other branches of the Jail Department, namely, the jailors' staff, ministerial officers, etc., have been granted either a revision of pay or an *ad interim* allowance;

(*viii*) whether there is any prospect of giving effect to the scheme referred to in (*ii*) at an early date; and

(*ix*) if not, whether the Government propose introducing an *ad interim* allowance for the teachers of the Alipore Juvenile Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The pay under the proposed scheme was examined with reference to the recommendation of the Committee.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Their duties are different.

(*v*) No.

(*vi*) Yes. As under the orders sanctioning the allowance it was to cease six months after the official termination of the war.

(*vii*) Yes.

(*viii*) Yes. A scheme has been included in the schedules for consideration in this session of the Council.

(*ix*) The question does not arise.

Bengal Settled Estates Act.

102. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state how many of the landholders of the Presidency have, up to date, constituted their estates into settled estates under the provisions of the Bengal Settled Estates Act?

(*b*) Have the Government made any inquiry as to the reasons why the provisions of the said Act have been taken advantage of only in a few cases?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Three landholders.

(*b*) Yes. The fundamental cause is that the Act is in effect a secular device for altering recognised rules of inheritance, which under both Hindu and Muhammadan law were regarded as sacrosanct.

Calcutta Maidan.

103. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state how much money has been realised by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, during the last three years, by allowing private companies to erect stands and other temporary structures on the Calcutta maidan?

(*b*) On what head of the revenue side of the budget is it shown?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) and (*b*) Clubs are charged a small fee for erecting a tent. The amounts realised during the last three years are Rs. 606 in 1919-20, Rs. 412 in 1920-21 and Rs. 566 in 1921-22. They are credited to Government as Calcutta maidan receipts under the head "XXX—Civil Works."

For permission to place temporary stands round certain football grounds during the football season a contractor pays a contribution to the "poor box" of the Commissioner of Police. The amount is Rs. 2,000 this year; in previous years it was Rs. 1,500.

Revival of cotton cultivation in Bengal.

104. Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reply given by the Government of India to the resolution moved by Rai Tara Prasanna Mukherjee Bahadur, M.L.A., for the revival of cotton cultivation in Bengal, in the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd March last?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps to improve cotton cultivation in Bengal, specially in the district of Dacca?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they propose to take to revive cotton cultivation as suggested by the mover of the said resolution?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As regards the steps taken to improve cotton cultivation in Bengal the member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. XXX asked by Babu Nalini Nath Roy at this session.

In Dacca, a preliminary selection of some of the long-stapled cottons has been made at the Central Farm, Dacca. About 120 samples of cotton have been collected from the different districts of Bengal and are being grown at the Central Farm this season for detailed study. About 9 maunds of Dharwar American cotton seed have been distributed amongst growers in the Dacca district this month, but the demand from genuine cultivators is very limited because the price of jute is so high that they naturally prefer to grow that crop.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Travelling allowance drawn by each of the Assistant Directors of Public Health.

105. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of the Assistant Directors of Public Health during the years 1920-21 and 1921-22, together with their pay?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 105.

Name.	Travelling allowance drawn during 1920-21.			Travelling allowance drawn during 1921-22.			Pay.
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.
Dr. R. B. Khambata, Assistant Director of Public Health, Malaria Research, Bengal.	1,726	5	0	495	12	0	700
Dr. M. E. Sufi, Assistant Director of Public Health, Vaccination and Vital Statistics.	1,068	2	0	506	3	0	700
Dr. B. B. Brahmachari, Assistant Director of Public Health, Presidency Circle.	2,350	10	0	2,584	0	0	700
Dr. S. P. Gupta, Assistant Director of Public Health, Rajshahi Circle	3,220	6	0	2,909	10	3	700
Dr. S. N. Sur, Assistant Director of Public Health, Kala-azar Survey	2,768	1	0	2,843	15	0	600
Dr. R. C. Ray, Assistant Director of Public Health, Dacca Circle.	1,310	5	0	2,059	5	9	600
Dr. S. M. Ghosh, Assistant Director of Public Health, Burdwan Circle	1,745	14	0	2,064	14	0	600
Dr. G. L. Batra, Assistant Director of Public Health, Industrial Hygiene	1,587	13	0	1,173	1	0	600
Dr. S. N. Mitra, Assistant Director of Public Health, School Hygiene.	483	0	0*	1,749	5	0	500

* Joined his appointment towards the end of 1920-21.

Amendment of the Standing Orders.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): Gentlemen, the next item of business for the consideration of the Council is the proposal of Mr. D. C. Ghose to amend the Standing Orders. I call upon Mr. D. C. Ghose to ask for leave.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: The amendment that I desire to move is in these terms. A member shall not be allowed to read his speech, but he may refresh his memory by referring to notes, and he may read as part of his speech passages from books or papers cited in support of his argument.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I may tell you that I will not allow you to make a long speech; so, try to be as short as possible

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Is the mover entitled to make any speech under the rules?

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: The amendment has reached the House and I object to it being introduced.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: It has not yet been introduced. I allow Mr. Ghose to speak. As regards the objection of the Kumar, I think the procedure followed by the Legislative Assembly is to allow the mover to make a speech. I have gone through the reports of the Legislative Assembly and I find that the mover is allowed to make a speech.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is a debate allowed?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: No debate is allowed but the mover is allowed to make a statement.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: In asking for the leave of the Council to move this amendment, I frankly confess that I am conscious of my temerity in submitting a proposal which aims at the abolition of a practice now in vogue in this Council. But I may assure the House and I give the assurance with all the earnestness that I can command, that nothing is farther from my desire than to embarrass the members of this Council in the performance of their duties as representatives of the people. On the contrary, I honestly believe that my proposal, if accepted, will enable this House to discharge its functions in a manner befitting a free and democratic assembly. I am afraid that we sometimes forget the purpose for which this Council exists. The Council exists not as an arena where the representatives of the people may deliver long speeches indicating minds irrevocably made up, but to further the highest interests of the nation, to secure the free expression of the wishes of the people, to guarantee the good Government of the country and to pass wise and just laws and see that due but not undue consideration is given them.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: What are you looking at?

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am referring to my notes, which I allow by my amendment. If these be the true functions of this House, then the aim and endeavour of every member ought to be to state fearlessly his own views and ideas and to persuade others to accept what he believes to be good, right and proper.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Look at us.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am looking at you, but I get no inspiration from you. That is the real object of parliamentary eloquence, *viz.*, to persude others to accept what you believe to be good, right and proper. Now persuasion is an almost impossible feat unless one is

able to meet and answer the arguments of those whom one wishes to convert. It very often happens that in the process of persuasion one has to change and modify one's preconceived ideas in order to be better able to convert others. I do not know how we can practice the art of persuasion if we are going to adhere to the unwholesome custom of reading out, as fast as we can, long speeches prepared at home, speeches which are sometimes unsuitable to the temper of the House and very often without a single answer to the arguments that have been employed by others. Besides, it must be well-known, that the success of pleading or advocacy depends very largely specially in a deliberative assembly upon the manner in which one expresses one's own thougths and presses one's arguments. And it must be equally obvious that reading written speeches with one's eyes fixed on the paper is a manner of speaking that hardly ever makes an impression upon the audience. Whoever has heard or seen an advocate addressing a jury with a written speech? Again, has anyone known a speaker swaying a meeting by a speech which he read from start to finish. The truth is that for the purpose of debate, for the purpose of persuasion, for the purpose of driving home one's arguments, reading a written speech is a wholly unsuitable manner of speaking. Then, there are other disadvantages of the practice of reading written speeches. In every deliberative assembly, especially in every Parliament, there are always a majority and a minority; and much of parliamentary debate is dispute between men who belong to the majority and men who form the minority. The endeavour of every such minority is to bring the majority over to its side and thus make its views prevail. I put it to this Council whether it is possible for any minority to succeed if its members are to get accustomed to a manner of speaking which is altogether unsuitable for parliamentary warfare? Skill in debate is really a condition of existence of any effective opposition in a parliamentary assembly. And nobody, I venture to think, can acquire that skill if he adheres to the fatal practice of reading written speeches. In fact, all discussion becomes unreal, all pith and fire are absent altogether in a debate which is based entirely or mostly upon written speches. Then, Sir, there is a ludicrous disadvantage which attends this method of oratory and it is this, that sometimes when you have sent your speech to the papers and it has been printed and published, you have not an opportunity of actually delivering it. That has happened, I believe on one occasion in the case of one member of this House, and I remember my friend Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy once drew the attention of the Chair to the fact that a speech had been printed and published in the papers although it was not delivered in the Council. Leaving aside the ludicrous aspects of this question, I respectfully invite the Council to consider whether it should allow a method of speaking which is altogether fatal to the growth and development of a parliamentary assembly.

The House of Commons which is after all the great model of every parliament in the world does not allow this method of oratory. In

its Manual of Procedure you will find this rule: "A member may not read his speech but may refresh his memory by reference to notes." But we need not go so far as England, if we do not wish to find an instance of a deliberative assembly in which the method of speaking I am attacking, is altogether discouraged Here, in Calcutta, we shall find such an instance. In the Corporation of Calcutta a convention has grown up which discourages, if not disallows, manuscript eloquence, and as a result of this unwritten rule, you will witness there what you have seldom seen here—real, earnest debates and discussions—eager, strenuous advocacy of views and ideas followed by decisions which embody the opinion of the majority formed after due consideration of different and conflicting views. Now, Sir, I put it to the Council whether it is impossible for us in this Council, the parliament of this province, to achieve what the City Fathers assembled in the Corporation are able to achieve without any difficulty? Is our standard, is our level of speaking to be below the level so easily attained by the City Fathers in the Corporation?

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Is there any Standing Order by the City Fathers? (Cries of: "Order, order.")

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I recognise that the proposal which I have ventured to put forward is a departure from the existing practice of this House, but I feel that it is a move in the right direction. I have already placed before the House the rule which obtains in the House of Commons. You will observe that in the amendment I am moving I do not propose to go as far as that because I am anxious that in our efforts to approximate to the standard of the Mother of Parliaments, there may not be unnecessary difficulties in our way in the first stages of our progress. Accordingly I have proposed that a member may not only refresh his memory by referring to his notes, but he may read as part of his speech extracts from books or papers cited in support of his argument. That I venture to think will render all the facilities that we may reasonably require for the efficient discharge of our duties. It has, however, been suggested to me that further latitude should be allowed to a speaker by allowing him to read a speech when absolutely necessary, with the leave of the President. Sir, I am quite prepared that the Select Committee to which my amendment will be referred should consider this suggestion, although it forms no part of my amendment. All that I ask for at present is that the House may give me leave to introduce this motion so that it may go to the Select Committee and it will be for the House to pronounce its final opinion one way or the other when the Select Committee will have submitted its report after a full and thorough examination of the question in all its aspects.

I formally move that after Standing Order 34, the following should be inserted:—"A member shall not be allowed to read his speech but he

may refresh his memory by referring to notes and he may read as part of his speech passages from books or papers cited in support of his argument.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Does the mover include those written speeches which are committed to memory at home?

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I do.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I object to leave being given.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Please wait a minute. In accordance with section 99 of the Standing Orders, I shall now read the draft amendment to the Council—

"After the Standing Order 34, insert the following:—

Speeches not to be read A member shall not be alowed to read his speech but he may refresh his memory by referring to notes and he may read as part of his speech passages from books or papers cited in support of his arguments."

Has any member any objection to leave being given?

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I obejct to leave being given.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Objection has been taken. I now ask those members, who support the motion for leave, kindly to rise in their places.

[On a count being taken only 17 members were found to have risen.]

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: As less than 30 members have risen, the member has not the leave of the House and the motion fails.

Non-official Bills.

The Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1921.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1921, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, Mr. H. P. Duval, Mr. S. W. Goode, Mr. S. Mahboob Aley, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, Nawabzada K. M. Afzal, Khan Bahadur, Mr. Syed Erfan Ali, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, Dr. A. Suhrawardy, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed and the mover with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation at the August session of the Council.

He spoke in Bengali in support of his motion, the translation of which is as follows:—

I beg to move that the Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1921, be referred to a Select Committee.

I moved for the introduction of this Bill in August, 1921, in this Hall, but for some reason or other the Bill was not introduced at that time. The Bill was, however, notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* on the 21st of November, 1921, and it was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 22nd November, 1921. I sufficiently justified the necessity for the amendments on that occasion, and it needs no further justification.

The Bill has been circulated to 38 societies for eliciting public opinion thereon. It has also been circulated to the departmental officers concerned. Amongst these 38 societies, the opinions of eight societies together with the opinion of the District Registrar have been printed and circulated. I have every reason to hope that the District Registrar is well versed in law, and he has, therefore, I think, accepted in general the principles of the law involved in this Bill. Of these eight societies, however, six are in agreement with on the principal questions, but they have expressed more or less a slight difference of opinion so far as the registration fees are concerned. These six societies have further suggested some additions and alterations. Sir, it is the duty of the Select Committee to weigh them in the balance and to declare whether these suggestions are consistent to law and reason. Some of these societies have also differed to a certain extent as under clause (5) of section 10. This is also a matter for the Select Committee's consideration. Under these circumstances, I do hope and trust that the Bill may be referred to the Select Committee.

It is extremely doubtful whether the two societies which have disagreed have done so under a misapprehension or personal malice. I do not care a bit whether they do agree or not. Even if they disagree, I would substantiate my arguments logically. Sir, everyone will bear me out when I say that clause (5) of section 10 is faulty in its character so far as the question of gratuities are concerned. It is so faulty that it is beyond the bounds of human comprehension. I am sure the two societies are deliberately silent on this point. There is a saying in Sanskrit, *viz.*, *maunang sammati laskshmanam*, which means "silence gives consent." When these societies are silent, we are bound to take it that they have approved of my suggestion.

The opinions of the two societies are based undoubtedly upon a misconception. All what I want to do is that for the word "parties" in clause (2) of section 8 of the Bill, the words "either party" be substituted. The two societies have turned aghast at this and clung to the belief that fraud will be practised in that case. A grotesque idea! If these societies will only care to refer to sections 9 and 11 of the

original Act and paragraphs 25 and 26 in notification No. 4000, dated the 30th April, 1918, they will irresistibly come to the conclusion that the parties will be bound to appear in person and sign themselves before the marriage registrar. And if they fail to comply with this condition, the marriage registrar will summarily reject the prayer. An appeal may, however, be preferred before the District Registrar within 20 days from the date of the order passed by the marriage registrar. Under these circumstances, I do not think it necessary or desirable at all that both the parties should be present for the oral application only as required under section 8.

There are instances, and not infrequent, that not a single party appears before the marriage registrar. Both the parties generally have to appear under section 9. Under clause (6) of section 10A of the Indian Registration Act it is laid down that if one party appears the other party is entitled to summon the party absent. I fail to see why the Muhammadan Marriage Registrar should be debarred from this privilege especially when the Sub-Registrar is authorised to do this. So far, however, as section 10B is concerned, there may be some difference of opinion. The Muhammadan Marriage Registrars are quite competent for this because they are conversant with religious injunctions and ceremonies. They have also received their education from the Government Madrassahs and have also passed the departmental examinations. Sir, men educated in English are entering the service nowadays. Those who have received their education in the Government Madrassahs, and passed the examinations which are held there are in no way inferior to the standard of education obtained by the graduates of the State Universities. The Maulvis who have passed the examinations of the Government Madrassahs are eligible for appointments as Sub-Registrars, provided they have a certain amount of knowledge in English. Under these circumstances, I am willing to agree with the Select Committee if they are disposed to think that the marriage registrars will not be empowered to register marriages under section 10B, but will be empowered to reject marriage prayers only under section 20, as the Sub-Registrars are doing at present. There is no other important point in this Bill to which objections can be taken, save and except this point. There may be some other objections of a trifling nature, but I venture to think the Select Committee will clear them up.

The limitation of time imposed under section 9 may be extended to four months because the same concession is admissible under the Indian Registration Act. Persons often appear within four months and not within a month, as required under the law, because they are under the impression that the time allowed to them is four months. If the present law is amended, a great deal of these difficulties will be obviated. Section 9 of the Act renders an application to remain valid for six months. But if this is cut down to four months the anomalies which are apt to occur in these cases will assuredly be overcome.

In conclusion, I might observe that the Kazis were held in high esteem during the Muhammadan rule. They had a versatility of genius. They administered justice, registered deeds and documents and shared in the responsibility of all state matters. They attended the Mussalman ceremonials and used to get fixed fees on marriage occasions. But this practice of getting fees was discontinued under the Regulations passed in the year 1872.

In 1864, the Government did away with the titles of "Kazeul Kuzat," "Kazi Urshera," "Saher Kazi" and "Perganah Kazi." Twelve years after, *i.e.*, in 1876, an Act was passed into law regarding the marriages and divorces of the Muhammadans; and about fifty years after, I have brought forward this amendment. Be it observed several Acts have been amended during this long space of time. Four years after, *i.e.*, in 1880, an Act was passed in the Imperial Legislative Council (Act XII of 1880) which is known as the Kazi Act and which revived the titles which were discarded in 1864. That was, Sir, however, a purely formal matter. There were only four sections in that Act which dealt in the main with the Kazis and Naib Nazis. Section 4 of the Act clearly states that there is no relationship between the departments of administration and justice, and it does not mean, either directly or by implication, that the Kazi's attendance is insisted upon on marriage and other ceremonial occasions. Hence the Act of 1880 has no bearing on the Act now under discussion. But in order to enable Mussalmans to perform the marriage ceremonies satisfactorily, I sent in a notice of the Amendment Bill in 1921. It is on the Agenda paper of to-day, No. 12. I come to learn, however, that the Government of India's previous sanction has not yet been accorded. So it is useless for me to say anything now. Nevertheless, some of the members are inclined to think that if these two Acts are amalgamated into one, it would be excellent. The difficulty, however, is that these two Acts are of two different Councils. Some time, therefore, must elapse before the sanction of the Government of India is received. When this Bill has once been introduced in this Council. I do not see any reason why this should not be referred to a Select Committee, in which case much time will be saved and the Bill may eventually be passed into law. In this connection, Sir, let me observe that there is a difference of opinion prevailing in this Council and I learn that it is the intention of the Muhammadan members, both inside and outside this Hall, that this Bill be not passed. There cannot be any other cogent reason than this that they have grown jealous of the idea that an insignificant member like myself should take the credit of getting a Bill passed into law. Be that as it may, I would ask again with all the earnestness I can command, that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee. The members of this Council have got every right to agree or disagree with the Select Committee in so far as the passing of this Bill is concerned. But let me assure you, Sir, that it will be causing great hardship on

the Mussalman sufferers if this Bill is not referred to the Select Committee and my prayer is rejected forthwith in the Council. It will also evince a certain amount of personal jealousy on the part of the Mussalmans, as the Hindu members are not in the least interested in this measure.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I beg to oppose this motion. I have studied this Bill, and I thought that I ought to have taken exception to it before, but leave was not taken at the time it was circulated. I therefore take this opportunity of opposing it. Before I deal with the points raised in the Bill, I may be permitted to draw attention to one or two of the provisions of the Act itself, and the changes that are going to be made in them. It is a very short matter; many members of the House are aware that there is a class of men who are known as Kazis or marriage registrars who have been appointed under this Act. Parties for registration of marriages and divorces ought to go voluntarily for registration; the Act provides that registration should take place when the application is made by the parties to the marriage jointly, and similarly in the case of registration of divorces. These are the present provisions of the Act. The Bill introduces a new change and in the place of a joint application tries to substitute "by either party to the marriage or divorce", that is to say, the marriage or divorce will be registered if either party to the marriage or divorce applies for it before the marriage registrar. What the effect of this will be, can be gathered from the opinions of the various associations consulted. Several opinions have been collected, but I may be permitted to read only two of them which are very important on this point. The Secretary of the Anjuman Islamia, Mymensingh—the Secretary of the Rajshahi Association has for some reason or other been enraged against him, but not the Association—says "in clause (2) of the Bill it has been proposed that for the words 'by the parties to the marriage jointly' the words 'by either parties to the marriage' be substituted, but in the opinion of this Anjuman this change instead of being harmless as is expected by the author of the Bill, will be positively harmful as it will make the registration of bogus marriages and divorces much easier."

Further, the Secretary to the Hooghly District National Muhammadan Association says: "With respect to the proposed amendment of section 8 of the Act and the insertion of the proposed sections 10A and 10B in the Act, the meeting resolved that the amendment of the law was not desirable as it would most likely lead to fraud being committed by unscrupulous people." We know, Sir, that the Bill provides in section 10B that if any party does not appear before the marriage registrar, the marriage should be registered *ex parte*. Section 10A says that an attempt should be made to serve a summons upon the party, and if the party does not appear in that case also the

registration will take place *ex parte*. How is this officer, the Kazi, to serve these summonses. He is not paid by Government, nor has he got any machinery to have these summonses served; nor in some cases have they got peons. Where they have got peons, it would be very easy for an unscrupulous wealthy person who has taken a fancy to any particular girl, to appear before the Kazi and make an application, and have a summons issued; he then gets hold of the peon who is going to serve this summons and takes it away from him and then the registration is made *ex parte*. The man then applies to the District Magistrate and states that the parents of the girl refuse to send the girl to him, with the result that the innocent girl is handed over to a person whom she has never seen. In some cases, if I remember aright, these persons have been detected and brought to justice. Thus, as the Anjuman Islamia says, this change will, instead of being harmless, be positively harmful. I should respectfully submit to the House that there is no necessity for the reference of this Bill to the Select Committee.

I do not know what idea my friend has in bringing this matter before the House; it is a known fact that this Act is not a compulsory, but a voluntary one.

There is another point, namely, the question of fees. I do not know what motive led the mover to disturb the old provision of the Act. He has fixed a higher scale of fees to be realised from persons entering into marriages or divorces. It is a well-known fact that the Muhammadans are very poor and the provision in the old Act for fees and registration of marriages was not compulsory but only voluntary and only those who wished or were rich enough to have their marriages and divorces registered could do so. If you raise the fees now, the result will be that the Muhammadans, being poor, would refuse to go to the marriage registrar's office, so that the very purpose for which the Bill is introduced would be defeated, and in this connection, I may be permitted to cite the opinion of the Secretary to the National Muhammadan Association. He says: "As regards clause (*4*) of the Bill, this Association is of opinion that the fee rate should not be raised as proposed and the fees prescribed by section 9 of the original Act be retained. Owing to poverty of the Muhammadans they generally do not register their marriages and divorces and the evil consequences are a multiplicity of suits and cases. Hence to encourage people to register their marriages and divorces the original prescribed fees should be retained." Even now with Re. 1 as the fee for registration, sufficient numbers of registers of marriages and divorces do not take place, and if you increase it still further, what will be the result? The inevitable result would be that nobody would care to register their marriages and divorces, and the very object of the Bill would be frustrated. These, Sir, are the two main provisions of the Bill and they will be positively harmful to the Muhammadan community rather than do any good to them. So I strongly oppose the Bill and request all the members to

carefully consider the whole question and to judge if it is at all necessary to refer the Bill to the Select Committee.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I am sorry, Sir, I cannot support the Bill which has been introduced by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq. A reading of the Bill will tell you that it deals specifically with five different points. Firstly, it empowers Kazis to register marriages and divorces *ex parte;* secondly, it provides for appeals to District Magistrates; thirdly, it enhances the period of time from one month to four months; fourthly, it enhances the fee and fixes the maximum at Rs. 5; and fifthly, the idea is the compulsory registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces.

Let me see for a moment whether there is any necessity for introducing these five items. Let me ask the learned mover what was the defect in the old Muhammadan law of marriages and divorces. Unfortunately, his whole speech did not disclose any of them. I will try to point out a few defects in the present amending Bill. Let me take the question of *ex parte* registration of marriages and divorces. My friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed, has already dealt with the question and I share his opinion that it will be more harmful than otherwise. A person wishing to marry a girl will go to the Kazi, give him some *nazar* and get an *ex parte* decree and get the marriage registered although the consent of the girl has not been given; possibly litigation will follow, which is hardly desirable, and it will pave the way to all sorts of corruption and fraud which may be practised upon the innocent people. We should not teach the poor people to litigate, which involves a heavy expenditure on both the parties. With regard to the space of time, I submit that there is no necessity of extending it from one month to four months. I find that some of the Anjumans are of opinion that an extension of time might favour the registration of marriages. The idea in the Bill is to legislate for the compulsory registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces. Marriage is a highly religious institution and the registration thereof is not favoured by the Muhammadan law; so we, as Muhammadans, should not favour it in any way.

Then there is the question of fees. I do not know why the mover should have decided on a higher scale of fees. What is the defect in the present Bill? Now we can pay about a rupee or two to the Kazi by way of a voluntary *nazar* and settle the affair. What is the necessity of fixing a higher scale at the present moment? There is absolutely no reason for the insertion of the fixed fee clause as the present system has not proved harmful.

I have already said that the compulsory registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces is not favoured by the Muhammadan law and as such we should not give our assent to the Bill. The whole Bill shows that the idea of the mover is to clothe the Kazis with additional powers and also to give them additional fees to fill their pockets with, and I

am tempted to say—I hope I shall be excused for saying so—that my learned friend, the mover, must have got a lot of friends among the Kazis, but that is my impression so far as I have been able to correctly understand the Bill.

The decrees of the Kazis cannot cure the defects of the Muhammadan law so far as marriages and divorces are concerned, marriage must be celebrated in conformity with the Muhammadan law. If the parties are not satisfied with the decree of a Kazi they will have to resort to the civil court, where their decrees will have no effect, and if this be so, what is the necessity of conferring additional powers on them? All that I have got to say is that the House will consider twice before allowing the Bill to be referred to the Select Committee.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: As a non-Muhammadan, I view with dismay the suggestions and merits of the Bill. When Act I of 1876 was passed, the view taken by the legislature was that voluntary registration should be allowed for reasons enunciated in the Act itself. It was not necessary, therefore, that when an application was to be made, it was to be made jointly by both the parties. The suggestion in the Bill is that the application may be made by either of the parties. Now, therefore, there is a shock to the whole scheme of the Act of 1876. It is necessary therefore to consider the value of the amendments proposed. Now, supposing an application is made by one of the parties without notice to the other party, the registration would be an *ex parte* one and the result would be disastrous. It will be necessary to prove the service of the notice. Under the present Act, the Registrar cannot exercise his duty unless both parties are present. Where is the necessity of having a cumbrous procedure? We should avoid it and stick to the old principle, namely, jointness of both parties to the transaction. A new principle is enunciated in the Bill. Moreover, we often find that there is a flood of cases in the civil courts for the purpose of setting aside marriages: why is it so? Because the parties do not go to the registration offices for the purpose of registering their marriages, and also because the whole affair is a voluntary one. As I have closely read the several clauses of the Bill, the preamble and the statement of objects and reasons of the present Act, I submit that such a suggestion, if carried, will be harmful to the interest of the Muhammadan community.

Then again, we find that under section 9 of the Act on the presentation of an application and on payment of Re. 1 as fee, the registrar will exercise his functions. The present Bill suggests that the scale should be higher, and in clause (9) (*a*) of the Bill, we find a catalogue of fees mentioned there. Are we to understand that when members of the Muhammadan community go voluntarily to the registration office for the purpose of registering their marriages, they will be required to pay higher fee? If this principle be adopted, the consequences will be

harmful and people will be deterred from having their marriages registered. The object of the Act of 1876 will be frustrated. Hence my humble suggestion to the Council is that care should be taken not to increase the fees. Now, if I refer to the statistics of facts and figures, what do we find in the Burdwan Division to which I belong? We find that there has been a lesser number of marriages registered, and if we are to increase the fees, there will be still lesser number of marriages registered. Therefore, I think it necessary, after a close study of the provisions of the Bill before the Council, and the speech which was delivered by the Member in Charge in the interest of the Muhammadan community there should not be a higher rate of fees. I do not wish to take up further time of the Council, but I do press upon the attention of the Select Committee, if one is appointed, and if not, upon the attention of the Council that there are serious objections to the raising of the fees.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABDUS SALAM: I have no desire to throw a damper on the reforming zeal of the Shah Sahib and I congratulate him on his observation that there should be no permanence in laws. I thought that being a Shah Sahib, he would recognise the fact that the Muhammadan religious law of marriage is a permanent law, and that the *shara* or the Muhammadan religious law is permanent. It is not, therefore, open to us to introduce reforms and changes in the Moslem substantive law of marriage. Let us see what is the Muhammdan law relating to marriages. Under that law there are only two essentials laid down: first, that there should be consent by the two parties—the would-be husband and the would-be wife—and secondly, that the consent should be given in the presence of two witnesses; that is all that is required to validate a Moslem marriage. When this Act of 1876 was under discussion, there was a heated controversy between the two sections of the Muhammadan party—the progressive party and the orthodox party. The orthodox party was represented by the Muhammadan Literary Society, and the progressive party was represented by the Central National Muhammadan Association. The Central National Muhammadan Association wanted that the Bill should be made compulsory, that is, the parties contracting marriages should be compelled to register them *nolens volens*, whereas the orthodox party shouted out that that would go against the Muhammadan law. There was, however, a compromise effected, and it was held that this law should be left optional entirely with the parties, as to whether they should register their marriages or not. That has been the existing state of things. Now the Shah Sahib wants that the provision in the Act should be changed in so far that, if one of the parties applies to the Muhammadan registrar to have the marriage registered, the registrar can call upon the other party to appear and the attendance can be enforced by the issue of a summons. That means that the other party is put under

compulsion and has to go to the registrar's office to give his consent, or he is under the temptation of telling a lie for which he might be liable to prosecution for perjury and so forth. Is it first of all expedient to put the other party in a position in which he would be most apt to commit an act of perjury? Secondly, the most obnoxious thing is that you compel a person to go to the registrar, which is not necessary and which is indirectly an infringement of the Muhammadan law of marriage. Therefore, that is the most obnoxious feature of the Bill. The Shah Sahib has recognised the fact after he had a discussion with me on the subject. He has further said that if there be such an objection, he is willing to provide for this change that the marriage registrar, instead of registering the marriage, would reject the application. If my friend wishes to give up this point, which is the whole thing in the Bill, what remains, I wonder? What remains is only the matter about the fee. That is not, however, a matter of importance. That is not a thing which requires to be put in the shape of a Bill and does not require so much discussion and is not worth occupying the attention of the Council, not worth the cost of printing these things (these Bills and the collection of opinions). The change can easily be effected by rules framed by the Government under the existing Act. If my friend is willing to give up the main point in the Bill about the enforcement of the other party's attendance regarding the registration of the marriage, the whole object of the Bill goes. That being so, I think the Bill ought to be dropped. I would ask Muhammadan members, one and all, to unanimously reject the Bill. As regards European and Hindu members, as it is a question affecting our religion, they will do best by abstaining from voting on the matter.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: The amendment proposed by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq in the Act is full of mischievous and dangerous provisions, and I think if the Bill be passed into law it will open the door to fraud, hard litigation, and endanger the happiness of many a poor family. It is well known that respectable persons do not as a rule register their marriages, it is the poorer and very often the lower section of the community who register their marriages and divorces. The aristocrats and the middle class think it beneath their prestige and dignity to register their marriages. I find that in the draft amendment Bill three proposals have been made—

(*1*) to increase the rate of registration fee;

(*2*) to abolish the acceptance of *nazarana;* and

(*3*) that the marriage may be registered even at the instance of one of the parties.

As regards (*1*) no complaint has as yet been received from the marriage registrars that the fee which is paid is not sufficient and adequate. Moreover, the Muhammadans being poor, can hardly be in a position to pay a higher registration fee.

As regards (2) no complaint has as yet been heard from any person that any marriage registrar has extorted anything. Even if the *nazarana* be abolished no provision in the Act can stop extortion. The registration being optional no marriage registrar would for his own interests extort anything.

Then as regards (3) *ex parte* registration, it will place an instrument in the hand of unscrupulous persons and libertines for reasons given by my friend Khan Bahadur Emaduddin Ahmed. The Muhammadans do not want it. The poor man's daughter will be quite unsafe and the happiness of many a poor family will be at stake. If a libertine takes a fancy to a beautiful girl of a poor man, he will proceed to the registrar and suppressing the notices, as is sometimes done in civil courts by bribing the civil court peon, he will get the marriage or divorce registered and try to possess the girl with the aid of bogus registration.

For these reasons, I would ask the Council with all the earnestness I can command, to reject the Bill.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: With regard to this Bill much can be said on either side. Of course, there is reason to apprehend that the provision of section 10A, which is intended to be introduced into the Act, will be a source of oppression in the hands of designing people. But, on the contrary, to give the devil his due, it must be admitted that there is some advantage in introducing this Bill. It is not without reason, as for instance, at present section 10 entitles the marriage registrar to accept *nazarana* from the parties. Although it is only an enabling provision, it has become a source of profit to the marriage registrar; and this Bill intends to do away with that practice of accepting *nazarana*, which has become a second nature in the person of the marriage registrars. With regard to this, I am bound to say that it is a salutary provision and the present system should be done away with. At the same time, the profit that is allowed to the marriage registrar is scarcely sufficient to keep him up in office; so, there should be some provision for allowing a graduated scale of fees to the Kazi. It stands, however, to reason that when a poor man, whose dower does not exceed Rs. 200, goes to the registration office for the registration of his marriage, it will be hard on him to pay Rs. 2; but when a rich man whose dower is a large amount, wants to register his marriage, it is not reasonable that he should get away by paying only Re. 1, as the Kazi is not entitled to receive any *nazarana*. So, I submit that it is a very salutary provision. There is another point, and that is, that instead of one month the period during which a marriage can be registered has been extended to four months, as we find that in the Registration Act, a document can be registered within four months of its execution. There is a further provision that on payment of additional fees, another four months, *i.e.*, eight months altogether can be allowed for registration of insurances. There is no

reason why when once a marriage has been celebrated and for some reason or other there is some delay in registering it, some concession should not be allowed, and the extension of the period from one month to four months seems to be quite a reasonable provision.

Then, with regard to section 10A, there is some apprehension that if it remains as it is, it will open a wide gate to frauds and the perpetration of many mischiefs. But the learned mover has already said that he is not in favour of having *ex parte* registration. There is a similar provision in the Registration Act that, when a document is executed, either party can present it to the registration office, and on its presentation the other party is called upon to admit its execution. In case of his refusal, the Sub-Registrar records an order refusnig its registration, and the party is left to appeal to the District Registrar or to the Special Sub-Registrar. As that is the provision in the Registration Act, there is not much difference in having this provision in our Act. Moreover, under section 9, it is incumbent on the marriage registrar to make an inquiry as to whether the marriage has been actually celebrated or not; and for that it is incumbent on both parties to go before the marriage registrar. If both the parties have to be present at the time of the actual registration, it does not make much difference whether the initiative is taken by one party. Section 8 is only a provision for taking the initiative, *i.e.*, the power of moving the marriage registrar to take action. When section 9 lays down that both the parties should go to the marriage registrar at the time of registration, it is not necessary at the initial stage that both the parties should be present. Section 11 further lays down, and the rules also lay down that the marriage registrar should satisfy himself that both parties will enter into marriage and if there is going to be a valid marriage. When these two salutary provisions are there, I do not see there will be any harm to either parties approaching the marriage registrar. With regard to *nazarana* and taking the initiative in the matter, they are the most important matter and, as such, justified.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I desire to explain the attitude of Government in this matter. Hon'ble members will notice that Shah Syed Emdadul Haq has introduced two Bills—the Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1922, and the Bengal Kazis (Amendment) Bill, 1922. We suggested to the Shah Sahib that the questions involved in both these Bills are questions of the utmost importance to the Muhammadan community. That being so, it was suggested that perhaps it would be better and wiser if the Government appointed a representative Muhammadan committee to go into the whole matter and after that either a private member or the Government might take up the matter. I may tell this House that the whole question was carefully discussed in 1914 by a representative Muhammadan committee. The Shah Sahib agreed to our suggestion

with regard to Kazis Bill but with regard to this Bill his point was that there was no question of principle involved in it, but that it was a Bill embodying amendments of different matters of detail. I think, Sir, the debate this afternoon has abundantly proved that this Bill may relate to questions of details, but that there is important difference of opinion with regard to such details. Therefore, I desire to place certain suggestions on behalf of Government. The one is that the matter be left to the vote of the non-official Muhammadan members of this Council. So far as official members are concerned, they would not vote. As regards the non-official Hindu members, of course, I have no right to suggest as to how they should vote, but I leave it to them to consider, as my friend Khan Bahadur Abdus Salam has done, that this is a matter in which many of them may not feel competent to come to a correct decision. It is a matter for individual Hindu members to consider, but so far as my suggestion has any weight with them, I suggest that they should abstain from voting at this stage, at any rate. But personally I would like that both these Bills be considered by a representative Muhammadan committee and then either the present mover or any other member may take up the recommendations of the committee and come up before this Council. With your leave, may I explain a few words to the Shah Sahib in Bengali, as I am not sure whether he has followed my suggestions?

[The Hon'ble the Minister then explained in Bengali the suggestions made in his speech above. He then went on in English.]

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have so far only explained my attitude in this matter; members are aware that at this stage, it is only permissible to discuss the principle of the Bill and nothing more. It is necessary now to say a few words about the merits of the motion before the House. So far as I can see, the only principle that can be deduced from the various provisions in the Bill is to give facilities to Muhammadans in the matter of registration of their marriages. With that question of principle I am in entire sympathy, but the point which will have to be considered very very carefully is as to whether, in trying to give effect to that principle, we may not be doing something injurious to Muhammadan interests. Therefore, if the mover accepts my suggestions then he may agree to withdraw his motion for the present. If not, I leave it, so far as possible, to the votes of the non-official Muhammadan members of this Council.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali pressing his motion. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I have explained in full before. I have already sent in notice of a resolution asking that the Kazi (Amendment) Bill may be duly considered by a strong element of Muhammadan representation before this Bill is referred to the Select Committee. It is on the Agenda

Paper No. 54. All the nine non-official members of the Select Committee are Muhammadans and there is an official Muhammadan member too. A stronger Muhammadan element cannot possibly be expected than this.

The motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Makramali, Munshi.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakulnuddin.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ali Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

The Ayes being 14 and the Noes 25, the motion was lost.

The Bengal Kazis (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The following motion stands in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq:—

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Kazis Act, 1880, in its application to Bengal.

I may tell the members that the sanction of the Government of India for the introduction of this measure has not yet been received. Therefore, this matter stands postponed for the present.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—I also do not like to move for leave to introduce this Bill as I have put in a resolution in this Council asking to form a committee consisting of a strong Muhammadan element.

The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The English translation of his speech is as follows:—

I beg to move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919.

The Act which I propose to amend was passed in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 9th April, 1919. It is, therefore, in the opinion of some, quite unnecessary to make amendments to this Act within such a short space of time. This Act was passed into law after due deliberation although no practical effect has been given to it. I confess I have no experience in Local Self-Government. As the Act relates to a matter which has close connection with villages, where I hail from, I am profoundly interested, and trust that I shall be given a patient hearing when dealing in brief of course, with all the aspects of the Bill. This Act deals in the main with the Chaukidari and the Panchayeti system. As I have said on a previous occasion, I am a President of the Chaukidari Union for over 15 years. I am also a President of the Union Board. I was a member of the District and Local Boards for a long period. As a result of the experience I have thus acquired, I have suggested certain material amendments which have been embodied in this Bill. Immense good will be done to this country if the Bill is introduced in the Council and public opinion invited thereon.

Unfortunately, however, this Bill has been circulated only to-day. Several members, therefore, have not been able to realise its significance.

In section 16 of the Act, the District Board has been empowered to remove the President of the Union Board on receipt of the report of two-thirds of the members of the Union Board. But there is no such provision in the said section empowering the District Board to call for an explanation from the President of the Union Board, nor is there anything in the section which provides for making an appeal to the District Board. Therefore, a provision has been made in this section so that—(1) before the President is removed from office, he shall be given an opportunity of answering the charges framed against him; and (2) an appeal shall lie to the Commissioner of the Division against the order of removal within one month from the date of such order. Everybody knows that even a chaukidar has got the right to appeal to the higher authority. If such be the case with a chaukidar, I fail to understand why an officer of the rank of the President of a Union Board should be debarred from the privilege of making an appeal to the higher authority. The Local Self-Government Act provides for an appeal in the event of any wrong or injustice done. I have made a provision in this section on the lines of the Local Self-Government Act

[At this stage the Deputy-President gave a warning to the mover that he should not be allowed more than 10 minutes.]

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: I bow to your ruling. But this question, an important question, relates to the amendment of an important Act. However, I shall try my best to be brief.

Sir, in sub-section (2) of section 16, two-thirds of the members of the Union Boards have been invested with powers to remove the Vice-President of the Board. Hence it is that I have suggested that the local board should be empowered to discharge the services of the Vice-President of the Union Board, on the recommendation of two-thirds of the members, but the Union Board; should not be empowered to remove the Vice-President.

I have also suggested in section 21, that an appeal will lie before the District Board in order to reverse the decision of the local board, and the District Board's decision shall be final. The salaries, the strength, etc., of the chaukidars and the daffadars are at present determined by the Magistrate alone. But I should suggest that the Magistrate should be the highest authority in this regard with an Advisory Board to be composed for this purpose of members elected, one from every 10 Union Boards. This is not an unwise suggestion to my mind and will bring in complete autonomy at no distant date. Otherwise, it is totally futile to invest the Union Boards with plenary powers in matters of this description.

As regards section 27 (*a*) (*o*) of sub-section (*c*), this is a trifling matter. I hope my suggestion will be accepted. As regards section 32, I venture to submit that it would be extremely hard on the Union Boards to establish primary schools and dispensaries, but it would be far easier for them to distribute medicines, and to provide for the engagement of the services of kavirajes, hakims and homœpathic practitioners.

I have suggested an addition at the end of section 36, as sub-section (2). The Union Board cannot remove a chaukidari or a daffadar (*vide* Government circular No. 2197 P.J., dated the 21st May, 1920), but it can remove any other officer (*vide* Government circular No. 1030 L.S.-G., dated 29th March, 1920). How does this stand to reason. This is most unreasonable and a provision should be made in this Act as regards the right of appeal to the District Board.

In section 40 of the Act, I have suggested that after the word "necessary," the words "and after considering the report of the Union Board" shall be inserted. One reason is that the magistrate is empowered to enhance or reduce the taxes imposed by the Union Boards after necessary enquiries. This is not fair, I submit. An explanation should be called for in the first instance. Otherwise the result will be the abuse of the powers vested in the Magistrates.

I have also suggested that in section 45, a sub-section should be inserted as sub-section (*1*). The reason is that although there is a provision in the law the District Board would help the Union Boards with funds, no such help, as a matter of fact, is afforded whenever it is sought for. In my district of Tippera, I can cite plenty of instances where not more than Rs. 75 is granted to the Union Boards, although Mr. De,

the late Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, recommended an allotment of Rs. 300 to each of these Union Boards. Hence the Union Boards should possess absolute control over the incomes derived in their respective jurisdictions.

As regards section 58, I submit that my intention is to make the meaning of that section more clear.

I have suggested that after section 70, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

"70A. **Postponement on application for transfer.**—If, before the commencement of the hearing of the case the accused notifies to the union bench that he has applied, or that he intends to apply to the District Magistrate, or any other Magistrate having jurisdiction in this behalf, for the transfer of the case to any other bench or any other Magistrate, the bench shall postpone the trial in such a manner as will afford a reasonable time for the application being made and an order being obtained thereon."

It is extremely desirable that provision should be made for safeguarding the interests of the accused in the event of his desiring to have his case transferred to some other bench or Magistrate. The Presidents of the Union Boards have no necessity of being graduates, and practically they are not so. But there is a safeguard even against the highly cultured and educated men, *e.g.*, Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates for the right of appeal in the Criminal Law. So I would strongly emphasise the necessity of making a provision against the majority of the uneducated Presidents for obtaining redress when wrong is done. I am myself a Bench President but I do not mind this provision being made as my sole intention is to make the law a law of justice.

In the second column of item 1 in Schedule III to the said Act, the words "or circle officers" should be omitted. I have suggested this because there is a provision in the said Schedule that the Magistrate is empowered to delegate his power to the Superintendents of Police, Subdivisional Officers and Circle Officers as to the removal of the chaukidars and daffadars. I do not think that the Circle Officers should be so empowered. To the best of my knowledge, I have every reason to view with suspicion the work of these Circle Officers. Rumours, though they may be unfounded and of a wild character, are broadcast as to the integrity of the Circle Officers. So why should we allow these rumours to reach our ears? Prevention is better than cure. In short, I have supported the amendments to sections 16, 21, 27, 32, 36, 40, 45, 58 and 70 of this Act. Amongst them I have supported the inclusion of a new sub-section in section 45 as regards the making over of one-third of the amount of road-cess to each Union Boards. As regards the other sections much of the difficulties which are likely to arise have been obviated by section 101 of this Act.

I find that there is a resolution also in the Council as regards the formation of a committee to consider the various questions of amendments of this Act. If such a committee is formed, there is no reason for me to be dissatisfied. But having regard to the short time allotted for the discussion of the non-official business, I think this matter may not be taken up for discussion at all. Under these circumstances I do not see there will be any harm if this Bill is introduced. When the opinions of the various public bodies are collected, several matters will be brought to our notice.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I oppose the motion to introduce this Bill, firstly, on the ground that we have just received the Bill and we are not in a position to say whether the proposed amendments are necessary or not. Secondly, as will appear from the agenda, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri is going to move a resolution to the effect that a committee should be appointed to suggest what amendments to the Village Self-Government Act of 1919 are necessary. We know that this Act should be amended, but at the same time we must appoint a committee to consider what amendments are necessary, and before we get the report of that committee——

(A voice: "Is he allowed to make a speech at this stage?")

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: No. He can only make a brief statement as to why he objects.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: What I say is that I do object to the introduction of the Bill. The law was enacted only two years ago in 1919 and we have not had a fair trial of it as yet. However, let us appoint a committee and see what amendments should be made.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: If this Bill is introduced, will it be permissible to include other sections of the Act which are not covered by the Bill?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: No.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I ask for a ruling? Under Standing Order No. 43, seven days' time is required before the Bill can be considered.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think you are making a mistake. That does not apply to this stage of introduction of a Bill which is a mere formality. A member can introduce a Bill and the Bill may be circulated even on the day on which it is presented before the House. It does not require seven days' circulation.

Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur: It is a very important matter and the whole House is very anxious to have a ruling on the point.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope the ruling I have given is clear.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Objection has been made to the introduction of the Bill and a vote should be taken.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The motion for leave to introduce will certainly be put to the vote if it is not withdrawn.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: In this matter I think we ought to hear what the Hon'ble Minister has got to say.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think the Hon'ble Minister may like to give his views.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I find myself in a somewhat difficult position and I will explain it as clearly as I can. In the first place we do not want it to be understood that Government will not give the mover leave to introduce the Bill. We are anxious to give a full and fair hearing to the proposals which he has submitted before the House. At the same time I desire to point out that the Bill contains provisions which it will be the duty of Government to oppose at a later stage, and there is much force in the argument which has been put forward by my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, that it is proposed to appoint a committee to consider Village Self-Government Act, and that being so, it is for the House to consider whether a Bill of this kind should be allowed to be introduced or not. The Bill contains provisions some of which—I will not use the word frivolous—are absolutely useless. At the same time there are provisions which go to the root of the existing Act which has been in force for only three or four years. Therefore when the Bill comes on if at all for the consideration of the Select Committee, it will be the duty of Government to oppose it. At the same time Government do not want to refuse a hearing to the mover who has placed this Bill before the House, but we are prepared to give my friend a hearing. Therefore, I have no objection to the introduction of the Bill.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

I am also in favour of a committee and if this Bill is not introduced at all, I have every reason to hope that this Bill may be discussed together with my amendments. But they have not been admitted on the ground that there cannot be any discussion on both the matters. If my amendments are accepted, I am prepared to withdraw this motion. This is, Sir, most reasonable. But at the present moment, Government have reasons to object to my proposal. However, I withdraw my motion now, and if in the future, a committee is formed, I hope and trust that this Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill will be carefully

considered along with the Act and I shall be given every opportunity of speaking when occasion arises.

The motion was then by leave of the Council withdrawn.

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Travelling allowance, salary, etc., to members of the Council.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I beg to move that "this Council recommends to the Government that one first class fare be allowed as travelling allowance to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council in future."

I confess that in moving this resolution I am not sure of its success. I discuss this matter informally with a few friends of mine and I thought that such a fine resolution would be accepted straightaway by every single non-official member of this Council. I found, however, that there were some who strongly objected to this very innocent proposal, and curiously enough amongst them were persons whom I regard as independent, honest, upright and patriotic. When these gentlemen fail me, I confess I am very much in doubt as to whether I shall succeed in getting this proposal accepted by the Council. But since I have put my name to this proposal, I suppose I must move the resolution, and hope that these gentlemen will reconsider their decision in the light of what I say and be prepared to vote in favour of my resolution.

This resolution of mine forms a corollary, I may say, to all previous resolutions moved by members of the Bengal Legislative Council in the cause of retrenchment. The very first day I arrived in this Council Chamber I heard of retrenchment proposals. I believe one of the first motions moved was by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur proposing that the salary of the Ministers should be reduced. That was in the cause of retrenchment. Then another motion was moved and accepted that the number of Executive Council Members should be reduced. That I believe was also in the cause of retrenchment: and we have passed numerous resolutions for the purpose of effecting retrenchment. When the budget came up for discussion on two occasions, we assailed Government and charged them with lavishness, and when the demands for grants were made we cut down the figures ruthlessly. All this indicates that the watchword of the Bengal Legislative Council, at least of the non-official members, is retrenchment. Now if you want the Government to retrench, I should like individual members also to practice what they preach. Let us not be regarded by the outside public as mere babblers who do not believe in what they say. Let us prove to

the public that we can make sacrifices. We have been severely criticised by the Press. One critic has called us "selfish sycophants." It is a horrible expression. Let us prove to the public that we are not selfish sycophants and let us tell the country that we are prepared to take one first class fare each way in place of two first class fares. I say there are members in this Council who have already made sacrifices in this direction. Take the case of my friend, Mr. Rishindra Nath Sarkar, take the case of Mr. S. M. Bose and there are three or four others. There is also Rai Abinash Chandra Banerjee Bahadur. Now these gentlemen have to visit their constituencies at least seven or eight times in the year, and so far as I am aware they do not draw a single penny from Government in the shape of travelling allowance. These gentlemen have set a noble example of sacrifice which may well be followed by the other members of the Council.

Now, the amount of saving that we shall make will not be very much I was looking into the figures and I think we shall be able to make a saving of Rs. 25,000 a year if my proposal is accepted. Well that is not very much, but still that is something. "Save as much as you can" is my motto, and I think that is also the motto of the Council. I would like to ask one question of the members of this Council, *viz.*, how is it that Mr. C. R. Das is extremely popular not only amongst the non-co-operators but even amongst persons who do not profess the non-co-operation principle? The reason is simply because Mr. C. R. Das and others like him have made sacrifices although in a wrong direction.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: Why in the wrong direction?

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Well, that is my opinion. These gentlemen have made sacrifices and that is the reason why the people admire them. I want every non-official member of this Council to make a sacrifice. Let them stand before the country and say that we will not accept two first class fares, one first class is sufficient for us. In this connection permit me to mention that there is a body of members in this Council who habitually travel second class. Now I do not mean any offence. There is absolutely no harm in travelling second class. In fact, if Mr. Gladstone, when he was the Prime Minister of England, could travel third class without loss of dignity, status or prestige whatever you call it, surely we can travel second without sustaining a loss in these respects. Let the members of this Council realize that prestige or dignity is not inseparably associated with the first class travelling. I expect therefore that every non-official gentleman will vote in favour of my proposal. It is no use sending this matter to a committee. We are all here and we must decide now and for ourselves whether we shall take a double or a single first. We do not want to make inquiries about the matter: we know exactly what the facts are. I do hope that your

decision in this matter will be such as to be acceptable to the country. I think that is all that I have to say.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT then called upon Mr. J. Campbell Forrester to move his resolution.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to a point of order. Is he speaking on the resolution just moved or is he moving his own resolution?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: All these resolutions will be taken up together?

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: Is it your ruling that these resolutions are so akin that they should be taken up together?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Am I to understand that this is an amendment to my resolution? If it is so, it can be moved now, but it is quite a different resolution altogether.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I think Mr. Dutt is quite right. The two resolutions are quite different.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: My ruling is that all these resolutions will be taken up together and Mr. Stephenson will reply to them and then all these resolutions will be put separately to vote.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I move that "this Council recommends to the Government to accept the principle of payment of a salary to each member of the Council as adopted in every country having Parliamentary or Respresentative institutions, and to fix that salary at Rs. 3,000 a year in lieu of travelling and halting allowances."

I have pleasure in moving this resolution. When I issued my address to my constituents, I declared I was a democrat from my platform. I advocated democratic views. I was elected, therefore, I may take it, as a democrat and this being a democratic measure, I bring it before the House feeling that this House will accept the principle. Since the introduction of the new reforms that this Legislative Council has been selected to carry out, all representative European public bodies loudly proclaimed the necessity of giving the scheme a fair chance and to do everything that is possible to bring the Europeans and loyal Indian gentlemen together. That is a rational view, and it is now mine, and I trust this resolution will be looked upon as having that aim in view. It may not be a popular one. Every one likes popularity. They like the respect of their fellowmen. I am no exception to this rule, but, Sir, I hope to be found on the side of justice every time, and I venture to say, Sir, that this is a just resolution. It will bring this House into line with all similar institutions

in the world, this being the only institute in the world of its kind unpaid. Here are some of the figures:—

(1) England.—Each member of the House of Commons receives £400 a year.

(2) Canada.—Each member of the Senate receives $2,500 a year, and each member of the Commons a maximum of $2,500 per session with certain deductions for days of non-attendence. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 7,710, present, Rs. 8,955.)

(3) Australia.—Senators and members of the House of Representatives receives an allowance of £600 a year. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 23,145; present, Rs. 27,910.)

(4) New Zealand.—The members of the Lower House receive £300 a year, and the members of the Upper House £200 a year. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 37,035; present, Rs. 44,660.)

(5) All members of Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) are paid $7,500 a year, with travelling, etc., allowances. (The Speaker of the House of Representatives receives $12,000.)

In California, each member of the House of Representatives receives $1,000 a term. In Idaho, each member of the House of Representatives receives $5 a day. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 9,000; present, Rs. 3,939.)

(6) France.—Deputies and Senators are paid at the rate of 15,000 francs a year. The Presidents of the two Chambers each receives in addition 72,000 francs a year for entertainment expenses. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 43,200; present, Rs. 18,913.)

(7) Japan.—The elected and nominated members of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives are paid 2,000 yen (about £200) for each session, with travelling expenses. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 3,000; present, Rs. 3,700.)

(8) Italy.—Each member of the Chamber of Deputies receives £240 annually. Of this £160 is represented by direct payment and the remainder by a current account with the railways and post offices, defraying travelling and postal expenses. (Approximate Rupee equivalents—pre-war, Rs. 3,600; present, 3,440.)

In every Colony with Dominion Government, Australia, South Africa, etc., all members receive payment of from £300 to £600 per

year *plus* travelling expenses in majority of cases. In every Republican Country—France, United States of America, Germany of to-day, even in small republics like Bolivia and Brazil, Deputies and Senators are both paid. A Director gets Rs. 32 (?) for one hour's meeting. A member of the General Committee Corporation or Port Trust gets Rs. 32 per sitting.

Surely no one will believe that this payment will mean making a profession for politicians, who would dream of taking up a profession and whose salary was only Rs. 250 a month after spending about three thousands on election expenses.

Take the old independent Labour Party in Parliament. The Labour members were paid out of trade union funds, but nobody would accuse them of being professional politicians on £200 a year and their constituencies got more work out of their paid members. The constituencies will have more hold on their members. Once they are paid, they will be subject to more criticism, if they neglect their duties or absent from important debates. They will want to know the reason why the old proverb that "the labourer is worthy of his hire" is as true to-day as it has ever been before. Then look at the saving of labour to Govenment assistants. They will be saved from all the worry and troubles of checking off travelling allowances—all questions of whether first class or second class fares should be paid will cease. No one will be able to accuse members of taking journeys home, from the Sunday to Monday for the sake of the extra money they make out of the Government by travelling allowances.

We must remove all the difficulties, which stand in the way of election of the right class of men. The circumstances are such at present that only zamindars and wealthy lawyers can afford the election expenses and the time that has to be devoted to their duties and that is why they predominate in the present Council. If we are to believe the instigators and promoters of these reforms, they were passed principally for the benefit of the great masses. Then, it is only logical and reasonable that these classes should have an opportunity of representing their own people. We will then probably not have the distorted views presented to us that we sometimes get in this Council about the attitude and opinions of the raiyats and labourers in certain circumstances. The very essence of the reformed Council is responsible democracy to secure the representatives of millions of raiyats, working classes, depressed classes. What chances have middle class Bengali gentlemen and the small land-owner, a school master, or a small merchant, full of patriotism and anxious to serve his country and who has the ability to do his work and that conscientiously, if he is worried about liviug expenses?

Now from a financial point of view the expenditure on travelling allowances and halting charges amounted to Rs. 1,47,000, whereas my

resolution, if carried, will increase it to only Rs. 3,48,000, taking 116 members as non-officials entitled to the salary, that is, 116 members at Rs. 3,000 a year *minus* Rs. 3,48,000—a difference of Rs. 2,01,000.

There are about 65 members who are responsible for the sum of Rs. 1,47,000. Out of these 65, there are about 15 who live at short distances. I make out therefore that there must be several members who are at present drawing more than Rs. 3,000 a year. I am sure the hon'ble member will say whether I am correct or not.

Now if you take—

		16 Europeans, whom I presume, will not draw the allowance
		14 zamindars and small landowners " " "
		10 wealthy barristers and lawyers " " "
Total	...	40 at Rs. 3,000 = Rs 1,20,000.

		Rs.
		2,01,000
		1,20,000
	Total ...	81,000

		Rs.
		1,47,000
		81,000
Total	...	66,000

This would be a saving to the Government of Rs. 66,000, if those members that I have mentioned did not take their allowances.

We must admit there is an honour in the service of the State and there are rewards which are not pecuniary, which are treasured more than gold. No one can say that by offering Rs. 3,000 a year as payment to members that it is a salary, a recognition of their services. No! it is not payment in recognition of service, it is not compensation, it is not a salary—it may be termed a minimum allowance. It is merely an allowance so that the door may be opened to public services to men, who have to consider these economic problems and this House will be all the greater, the better, and the stronger by their services.

A prominent member of the House of Commons has recently said in the House of Commons: "It is well, I think, that Indians should realise that based on good-will and partnership, there are no rights that will be denied her by the British Parliament." This resolution is one of your rights, a right that it is not necessary for the British Parliament to confer upon you. Are you going to confer it upon yourselves or are you lacking in courage to do so?

There is a proverb which says: "We get the Government we deserve." Government is like a mirror. We see it in our own faces. I recognise one of the functions of the Government is to spend money, one of the functions of the people is to make money by working for it.

Gratuitous work means bureaucracy. Magistrates and clerks are really the actual justices of the peace in England because of their knowledge and constant presence in court, Mayors and Lord Mayors perform gratuitous services, but the work is drifting into the hands of the town clerks. The more work you get out of this gratuitous kind, the more are you strengthening the bureaucrary. This is one more reason why you should vote for the payment of members.

No man is educated who has never learned to do any kind of useful work. No man lives in good environment who has not been taught to think of the welfare of his fellow-creatures before his own. No life is sound, nor sweet, nor moral, which is not based on useful services. No one in these days of democracy believes that to be poor and landless is a proof of inferiority. It is not good for young or old to have unlimited wealth and leisure; therefore, I do not ask this for the rich and leisured, and I trust that class will return their grant to charities such as many of us are interested in. Those that are interested in malaria can give it to this cause; those who are not interested in hospitals can give it to that very deserving purpose, the Leper Scheme, and, should it ever come my way personally, I should gladly give it to that scheme; and if those charitably disposed act in this way, the Government will be the gainer in the end. Kumar Rai Sahib of Rajshahi would give it to his pet department, the Police, likewise Babu Surendra Nath Mallik and Professor Mukherji would gladden the heart of Minister of Education by giving it to Dacca University, not Calcutta. Why, Mr. President, you yourself are not drawing your Rs. 5,000 a year allowance? Even this Council admits the principle of payment by it acknowledging travelling and residential allowance of Rs. 10 per day. Why, even men and institutions whose one thought is for the betterment of mankind—the Salvation Army, the Oxford Mission Brothers and many others—all get living expenses. The late Sir William Ironside, in his speech at the annual meeting of the Chamber on the 28th February, 1919, said when discussing the Reforms Scheme:—

> One thing, however, is certain—the business community must take a different view of politics, and I should like to see it made worth a man's while to make the representation of this Chamber the whole-time work of a trained mercantile politician, possessing equal rights with Indian members to occupy the suggested ministerial seats dealing with transferred subjects.

It is plain to every mind that our goodness or badness, our ignorance or knowledge, our helplessness or power depend to a great extent upon the kind of teaching we get. The root cause of most prejudice and malice, of much violence, folly or crime is ignorance. There is much ignorance displayed amongst many I have talked to on this subject of payment of members. Some see the true principle involved and believe it is the only correct way to carry the House on successfully, but say: "What will our constituencies think about us voting salaries

to ourselves?" If that person is convinced that the principle is sound, but he is afraid of his constituency then, Sir, he is not a leader of his constituents. I will console that type of individual by telling him that, above all, I wish you to clearly understand that I am not asking you to vote salaries to yourselves to-day or this year. The timid will have an opportunity of consulting their constituents if they desire voting for the salary itself. I simply want you to acknowledge the principle, and logically, I cannot possibly see how you can avoid doing so.

If you have men who come here to give of their best for their countrymen, who make terrible sacrifices of money and time, is it not human to expect to get from them their best, if their minds are perturbed about the feeding and keeping of their families and their efforts to keep up a respectful appearance as befits their position in this Chamber?

It is our duty to endeavour to get the Chamber filled with the right type of men. Men who will "scorn delights and live laborious days." Men who will not sell their integrity. Men who will beg of no man. Men, who, by their voice and pen, will strike clear ringing blows against impostures and vices that debase and paralyze the human race We do not want the type who is continually belching forth the lava of political corruption in a broad and deep current. No! we do not want those civil spirits who are fiendishly taunting those who dare to resist their destroying course. No! we want the type who will join forces with progress and help us to make a great and prosperous India, who will work by evolution not revolution. Evolution is not like unto a mushroom, it cannot spring up in a night but must be of gradual growth. There are many men of this type in Bengal, but are debarred by financial reasons. Men who would help on to the ideal state to bring contentment to all and hasten the time when the labourer will go to his simple wholesome meal and in the twilight talked in gentle communion one to another from the doorways then each to his bed and rest, tranquil in the love of God and man. These are the ideal conditions that are desired by all right thinking men Then, do not place obstacles in the way of bringing forth the type of man who will help on these conditions.

In conclusion, I impress upon you that this is not a vote to pay salaries but simply one to admit and accept the principle of payment of salaries. It would be undiplomatic on my part to press for the immediate payment of members, when at the present moment the Inchcape axe is being sharpened ready to chop off the superfluous branches of expenditure but I feel confident that when the axe has made its clearance, the tree will be more healthy and vigorous and real healthy branches will be allowed to form and I venture to state that payment of members will be one of these branches.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I may inform members that the Legislative Department has received 350 motions for reduction of

grants. To-day being the last day for the submission of motions, the Department will not receive any more motions as the hour for receipt of motions has expired.

Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: I beg to move as an amendment to the resolution No. 2 that for the words and figures "Rs. 3,000 a year in lieu of travelling and halting allowances," the words and figures "Rs. 2,400 a year with one first class travelling fare for attending meetings, but without any residential allowances" be substituted.

The object of this amendment is to enable the mufassal members to meet the expenses which they have to incur in their journey to attend the Council meetings. The mufassal members come here at great sacrifice and it is not desirable that they should pay the travelling expenses from their own pocket while all the members will get the pay of Rs. 2,400 and the town members will not have to incur any expenses at all. I do not grudge the town members what they will receive in common with the mufassal members and I hope in justice to the mufassal members the House will accept the amendment.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: The amendment that stands in my name runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the question of payment of fixed salary and the present system of payment of travelling allowance and residential allowance be referred to a committee consisting of two non-official members who have their usual place of residence in Calcutta, two other non-official members and one official member with instructions to inquire into the system and recommend such changes therein as will be acceptable to all the members with due regard to economy and that the said committee be requested to submit its report before the next sitting of the Council in August."

The object of my amendment is very simple. There are several resolutions in connection with the amendment to the existing rules for payment of travelling expenses and residential allowance. Resolution No. 1, resolution No. 2, amendment No. 2A and resolution No. 93 all relate to the modifications of the present rule relating to travelling allowance. So, I suggest that all these matters be referred to this committee for their consideration in order that we may be in a position to discuss this question in August next having been in possession of materials suggested by the committee.

With these few words, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of this Council.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that "this Council recommends to the Government that a committee of official and non-official members be formed to consider and report whether the present rate

of travelling allowance and residential allowance of the members should remain as they are or any modification should be made with any fixed pay."

He spoke in Bengali in support of the above resolution. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

The two resolutions which precede mine cannot go together, one seeks to curtail the travelling allowance and the other to pay a fixed yearly allowance in view of travelling and halting charges. If the Council is to decide such questions of divergent issues, the short time allotted for non-official business will pass away. I am therefore proposing that the question be committed to the decision of a committee. Last year we had nine and seven days in July and August session respectively, whereas this year during the corresponding sessions we have only two and four days for the discussion of non-official business. Moreover, had the Government business concluded earlier we could have got the rest of the time for the discussion of non-official business but that privilege has nowadays been withdrawn.

In the last budget I advanced several arguments in favour of my motion to reduce the demand of Rs. 1,30,000 by Rs. 45,000 Though the Member in Charge expressed sympathy with my proposal, it was held that unless the present rate is altered no curtailment is possible. In the budget for 1921-22 there was a demand for Rs 23,000 only. There is a saying in Persian: *Khud gumra kara rahbari Kunand* which means, "one in doubt cannot remove doubts in others." As to curtailment in the expenditure, members should be the first to set an example before others. We wish to cut off the pay of Ministers and effect economy in several directions It would be quite selfish not to yield an inch when we ourselves are concerned. Those who can sacrifice their own interest acquire general approbation and their names survive through eternity. According to the first resolution a retrenchment of Rs. 25,000 is possible but in reply to my speech of the 20th March last, it was said that Rs 1,45,000 was spent last year on account of the travelling and halting of members. So, I think we should further reduce the amount. The present House is composed of the favoured few of fortune, who are expected to spend a few rupees in service for our mother country if, in accepting a single first class, we have to do so to meet our sundry expenses in travelling. The riches of the rich come from the poor. The resolution of Mr. Campbell Forrester may suit countries like England but is quite unsuited to a poor country like ours. On an average we have an income of Rs. 20 a year, while the average income per head in England is £45 or above Rs. 675. England is a cold country and the staple food there is highly rich but Bengal is a very hot country where people are accustomed to very mild and moderate food. The English are flying

in the air in aeroplanes and Zeppelines, but we have got no power, which formerly our forefathers had, to ply our chariots in the air. In England through the spread of education and politics representatives from amongst the labouring classes enter the House of Commons but though the system of such representation has been introduced in this country such representative members cannot enter this House. We have rather in this House the zamindars and their favourite lawyers who cannot well be expected to look after the welfare of the tenantry. In England members of the labouring classes cannot do without an adequate allowance but the rich members of the House do not stand in need of any payment. Most of us look down upon such payment with contempt. When the time will come and the labouring class will enter this House it will be advisable to introduce several systems in force in the House of Commons and the language of the House will be the language of the land.

With these words, I oppose the resolution of Mr. Campbell Forrester and Mr. Dutt's resolution, and move my resolution about the formation of a committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The moving of this resolution and various others that appear on the paper——

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Have I a right of reply?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes. I may tell you that the procedure I am going to adopt is this. There are about 12 speakers on the subject of payment to members. After hearing the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson many members may think of not speaking at all. That is the reason why I have asked Mr. Stephenson to explain the situation.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: May I just rise to a point of order? Would it not be better if the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson replied after he had heard us?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. Will you kindly proceed Mr. Stephenson?

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): This resolution and several others that appear on the paper seem to indicate that there is a certain amount of uneasiness in the minds of the members of the House with regard to the payment of allowances, travelling and residential, and on the subject of payment of fixed salaries. Some members wish to reduce the allowances and others, I gather, would like to raise them slightly. This question is one, I think, almost entirely for the House to decide. The members of the House are responsible to their constituents and it is a matter in which they will exercise their responsibility. Except in

so far as my friend, the Hon'ble the Finance Member, is concerned, it is not a matter in which Government should take I think any decided line. It would obviously be unsuitable that Government should accept any one of these resolutions. If it were a matter merely of economy it would save much time, if we accepted the first resolution, but the attitude of Government must be that they will give every weight to the opinion expressed in the course of this debate and should the House desire strongly to have a committee to examine into the matter, Government would be perfectly willing to appoint one, but I think that the desire of the House should be expressed in the form of a vote on that particular resolution.

With regard to the first resolution that only one first class fare should be allowed, the present position is that members of the Council receive the same travelling allowance as Government officers in similar circumstances, *viz.*, double first class fare. The object of that is not that it shall be a source of remuneration to them. The extra first class fare is not meant to go into the traveller's pocket but it is intended to cover incidental expenses like cooly hire, gharry hire, etc., which are inseparable from journey by train. It may be said that railway fares have recently been raised and this puts into the pocket of the officer or member travelling an extra amount of money which he is not otherwise entitled to. The lynx-eyed Finance Department have already spotted that and are taking measures to prevent it. The principle of the present allowance is that it shall not be a matter of profit, but that it shall cover the ordinary expenses. If it is desirable and suitable that a member of the Council should travel first class, cutting down the allowance to single first class fare will put members out of pocket and it is for the Council to consider whether this is reasonable. On the other hand, I quite agree with the mover that it is not desirable that a member should travel second class and draw double first class fare. That was not what was intended. If the House considers it desirable for the sake of its own dignity that a member should travel first class, I think that something more than single first class fare should be allowed. On the other hand, if the House considers it suitable that its members should travel second class, then I do not consider that double first class fare should be given.

Coming to the second resolution it involves a good deal more than the first; it involves a change of system entirely. At present members are given an allowance towards meeting their extra expenses. Mr. Campbell Forrester would put them on a different footing altogether and give them salaries. Last time this motion was brought forward, it was withdrawn as being premature. The motion then went further and in addition to the payment of Rs. 250 a month, it proposed free first class railway pass throughout Bengal and free postal service. The present motion is more moderate.

I should like to put before the House a few of the arguments both in favour of a system of payment of members and against it. As the mover has pointed out, the system is not a new one and has been tried in most countries. Therefore, the question of advantages or disadvantages has to a certain extent been thrashed out already. The argument put forward in favour of the payment of the members is the analogy of other countries, especially England, but the payment in England is of comparatively recent date—it started only in 1911. The grounds on which the payment was made in England were that the work of Parliament had become very much greater than in the past and that, therefore, it was impossible to ask a man to do the work without some allowance. It is a point for consideration of this House whether its work has so far become so great that we should consider the question of salaries to members. The average sittings of the House of Commons are 170 days in a year. We have not reached that figure yet. I do not know whether the House will soon reach that figure.

The second argument brought forward was that the payment of members was democratic. It is more in accordance with the principle of democracy to have members paid for the work we get from them. A free and independent public like to pay for the work they get. Of course, the argument regarding the payment in England very much depended upon the existence of the labour party. That was a party which could not afford to come to Parliament unless they were given their daily bread and that brings us on to the next argument that was used—it was far better to pay members of Parliament for their labours than allow them to be paid out of party funds. That argument, I believe, carried a good deal of weight. They thought that it would be better to pay for members of Parliament because those who had no income could not afford to come to Parliament without a subsidy either from the State or from the party. If the State refused to grant them any subsidy, they would have to fall back upon their party funds.

Another argument used was that a politician was rendering service to the State and that although public service was an honour, yet it deserved to be paid by an allowance—the labourer was worthy of his hire. On the other side, I think, the main arguments are that gratuitous public service is a great asset not lightly to be thrown away, and that the payment of members of this Council would lead to a demand for the payment to the members of local boards and municipalities. The principle is the same and it is very hard to draw the line except that we spend the money raised from others, whereas they spend their own.

The third argument used was that it was wrong that a Parliament should vote salaries of its own members. Of course if you push this argument to the extreme it would be impossible for a legislature ever to be paid because no one else can vote the salaries, but I think what

underlies the argument is that members should be sure before introducing a system of payment of salaries to members of the Council that they have got the public behind them and that there is a real public demand for it.

Another argument was that the payment of members would lower the moral authority of the House outside with the general public. It tends or is accused of tending towards the establishment of a system of professional politicians. It also leads to accusation against the members that the fact that they are paid leaves them less free to resign or to go to their constituents in the same way as they would do if they were not in receipt of anything. I do not say that this is an argument that in any way weighs with me or with reasonable people, but it is an argument which the payment of members exposes them to.

There is another point. We have been told that many other countries, in fact most of them, have established the system of payment to members. That is quite true. It is also true that in some countries the appetite grows by eating and certainly in America, France, Australia, the allowances have been increased and there is possibly a danger of this moderate proposal being increased in the near future.

The other objections that occurred to me to this particular—leaving the principle—proposal of salaries of Rs. 3,000 per annum are these. If you pay a member, you may like to know how many days he has attended in a year. I believe in the early days of the House of Commons there was a roll-call to see that the members were there. The division lists of this House show that there are rarely more than 80 or 90 members present in a division. Of these, about 20 are officials who would not receive salary. There is thus a floating body of members of this Council—about 50 or 60—I do not say they are always the same individuals, some are here one day and some are here on another day, but the public will say that there are some 50 or 60 members of this Council who take their duties very lightly. If members are to be paid, there will certainly be a demand that they should be paid on the lines contained in the motion down for consideration later on, that is, no work and no pay. The member who does not attend will not get his pay for that day. But the principal objection to this particular proposal is the differentiation between the cases of mufassal and town members. The mufassal member will have to pay his railway fare and other incidental expenses.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: So they do at home.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: From the point of view of the mufassal members, it will mean a higher payment to the town members. Going through the accounts of the travelling allowances drawn by the mufassal members during the last year, I find that there are 15 mufassal members who have drawn over Rs. 3,000 as travelling allowance. These particular mufassal members would be very badly out of

pocket. There are many others who have drawn nearly Rs. 3,000, whereas the Calcutta members will get Rs. 3,000 clear in their pockets. These members will not have to spend anything. I think, further, that members of Council will find it a little hard to justify to their constituencies the payment of a salary for the months in which it is known that no work is to be done. The present system is a reasonable one—no work no expenses; but if for five or seven months in the year we deliberately paid salaries with no possibility of work being done, how could these payments be justified?

Lastly, and this is the argument on which I lay the greatest stress in saying that Government oppose this particular motion, it will cost nearly Rs. 2 lakhs more a year, and on the ground of economy Government would not be justified in accepting a proposal of this kind. A similar motion was withdrawn last time on the ground that it was premature; I think that the same reason still applies to this proposal. The Council has not been in existence yet for two years, and there has been no debating of this question outside; there is no mandate from the constituencies, in fact I would go so far as to say that in the present state of organisation of the constituencies there is no possibility of their giving a mandate for anything.

Coming to the other amendments, my remarks apply to that of Maulvi Fazlal Karim equally; the only difference there is that his proposal will be a little more favourable to the mufassal members in that he gives them one first class fare in addition to a salary of Rs. 2,400 a year. The other two resolutions propose the appointment of a committee to inquire into the matter. I have some doubts as to whether any committee will attain the desire of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, *viz.*, it will be able to recommend "such changes therein as will be acceptable to all members," but I think the question of payment or continuing the present system is one which should not be decided by a committee but by the House itself; the main question of principle ought not to be relegated to a committee; but at the same time I say that if there is a feeling in the Council that all is not well with our travelling allowance system, and that they would like a committee to be appointed, Government will put no obstacle whatever in the way. As I have said, the opinion of Government on these resolutions is secondary; the resolutions are primarily the concern of the Council; Government will attach great weight to all the opinions that are expressed in this Council and any decisions that the Council may come to, though if these decisions involve greater expenditure, I cannot guarrantee that they will be accepted, or receive the approval of the Finance Department.

Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA: I rise to support the motion of my friend, Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt. It is a known fact that the first class fare in almost all railway and steamer lines is very

expensive. We are all anxious to retrench under all heads of expenditure. We, the members of Council, should show the way by agreeing to accept a single first class fare for a single journey and thereby we may save a certain amount of public money, although it will cause a certain amount of inconvenience to some of us. For this reason, I support this resolution.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support the motion of my friend, Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt. I thank him sincerely for bringing forward this resolution at a time when there is a serious attempt to saddle the exchequer with heavy expenditure by the proposal made by Mr. Campbell Forrester. I earnestly request Mr. Forrester to consider the position in India. I do not know whether there is any country in the world like India. Mr. Forrester ought to take into consideration whether he can compare India with England or Australia or any other country, with its foreign Government—a very expensive and bureaucratic Government which we are bound to maintain and with its expensive Army; in this state of things, where there is no money even for food, when we have nothing to spare, Mr. Forrester thinks that like any other country in the world we should be more liberal to the members of the Legislative Council.

Many mufassal jurors, men of humble position come to serve in jury trials without any remuneration; besides, there are many honorary services which are rendered without any remuneration; but if we are to serve the Council and our motherland, it is unfortunate to think that we should not be able to make some sacrifice. It is not only a question of sacrifice; I think we are not usually in the habit of travelling first class; and I do not think that because we belong to the Legislative Council, it will add to our dignity if we travel in the first class with a retinue of two or three servants and other appendages. We can well manage to travel in the second class with dignity. When we were in the old Council we used to be invited to balls and other ceremonies in the Government House, but in this Council the members are not so invited. I may remind you of the saying "paint me as I am" so it is not necessary that because we are coming to attend the Legislative Council we should be shown to the outside world as more dignified, and that it will be derogatory to us if we travel in the second class and try to save a little money for the benefit of our motherland. Personally I prefer travelling in the second class; I have no objection even for the third class, but being an old man I simply look to some comfort, if I can get that, I would not mind to preferring to travel third class. As a matter of fact, I do not always travel in the first class though I get that fare; I do not think it necessary to waste, but whenever I see it is for my comfort to travel in the first class, I go there, but I do not think it beneath my dignity to travel in the third class. I am not ashamed to say so; I

spend the money in other charities instead of putting it in the pocket of the railway company.

However, my point is this: that we should not be justified in making our position in the Legislative Council a source of income. We should try to be economical, and be bent upon doing the best thing that can possibly be done. Moreover, it exercises a very bad influence under certain circumstances. We see in the mufassal that the local board and district board members get themselves returned simply for the sake of the travelling allowance. Many of them do not know even how to take part in debates. In one case the District Magistrate told me that the member could not hear, but simply raised his hand with others; so practically, he comes there for the sake of the travelling allowance. This may have a demoralising effect upon many. There are men, no doubt, who think it necessary to maintain their dignity, and that they should be accordingly provided for; but I do not think for that purpose so much is needed. When the question arose during the budget debate—I believe my friend, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, raised the question—I suggested that this amount should be reduced by one-third. I believe Sir Henry Wheeler inquired the principle on which we should make this reduction. I am glad that my friend has submitted a proposal that there should be one single first class fare paid to members; I think that will be quite enough because there is the residential allowance, or, as I suggest, when convenient, the members may save something from their travelling allowance, to pay for their servants and other appendages. There are many cases in which very few members have to spend much money in Calcutta; they have got their friends with whom they live; so after the weighty words and sound advice of the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson, I do not think I need say much more. On principle we should not be justified in demanding a salary and insisting upon the payment of double first class fares, which I, for one, can safely say is not required for our journey. At least the majority do not want the full amount. I think it is quite reasonable that the money should be returned or not accepted at all, and set apart for some nation-building purposes—the money may be made over to the transferred departments.

With these words, I support the motion of Mr. Dutt and I earnestly request Mr. Forrester not to press his resolution. I also do not think that any good purpose will be served by appointing a committee or referring this question to a committee. We are all here and we know what we should do, and if we are all agreed that we should not make any profit out of this allowance, we should not be justified in drawing double fares. We should be consistent with the position we hold in society, and we should be economical and show an example to others. We have been clamouring for some time for a reduction of the travelling allowance for Government officers; we think there is some waste of

money, but unless and until we can show an example in our own case, we cannot reasonably ask others to do the same. I think the matter should be decided here and we should accept the resolution moved by Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, the worthy son of a worthy father, being actuated by the best of motives and that Mr. Forrester should withdraw his motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: It is rather delicate and difficult to join in a debate, whose subject-matter is a personal question with almost all the non-official members of the Council. But I must confess that the persistency with which periodic attempts are being made to open this question of the travelling and residential allowances of mufassal members shows that a free and open discussion is necessary to clear up some misapprehensions that have undoubtedly gathered round the subject.

The basic principle of all such allowances should be, first, that no member may be out of pocket for having to come to, and stay in, Calcutta in connection with the business of this Council, and secondly that no profit may be made out of these allowances. This is all that can be regarded as fair. Anything short of this will be a hardship on the members, anything beyond this must be regarded as an unnecessary burden on the poor tax-payer. Any attempt to compensate the members for their loss in business or for the value of their time devoted to the work of the Council, must be regarded as an extravagant demand, at the present state of the country at any rate. Surely, the country can expect this much sacrifice, if sacrifice it can be called, from the members of a Legislative Council.

The question before us is whether the present scale of the travelling allowance is in conformity with the principle just mentioned by me. As far as I have been able to understand the matter, I think there is a lurking suspicion in the minds of some members, specially some Calcutta members, that the mufassal members make a profit out of their allowances. One section of the Calcutta members seems to think that this profit must be put a stop to, whereas another section seems to wish that they just as well might have a share in this profit.

I do not know if any mufassal member has been able to make profit out of his travelling allowance by travelling third or inter class, but the present rules have been framed according to the Civil Service Regulations, which are supposed not to admit of any profit. There is a great practical difficulty in paying the actual travelling expenses of any individual member, and hence, a general rate has been adopted in the Civil Service Regulations, according to which, the present rates of the allowances of members are governed. If this rate does admit of any profit, as suggested by some members of this Council, I shall be the first to ask for its revision—not only for its reduction—but for the reduction of the whole schedule of rates in the Civil Service Regulations; if the

Council members can take less rates without suffering pecuniary loss, the Government is bound to reduce the travelling allowance rates for all its officers.

What then should be the proper rate? Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt has fixed upon a particular rate, but I am afraid that with all his eloquence, he has not been able to prove that this rate will not be too much or too little for all members. I do not blame him for this. As a matter of fact, it is not possible to decide in an off-hand manner what rate of travelling allowance does or does not admit of profit. The only safe way is to refer it to a committee, who can take evidence and go into all the details of the question. As for residential allowance, mufassal members have always felt it difficult to get suitable accommodation and the present residential allowance hardly admits of profit. Of course, I have nothing to say about those generous people who can afford to keep and feed members in palatial houses at the absurdly low rate of Rs. 2 per day. Apart from the help of these charitably disposed gentlemen, I shall welcome any suggestion that may be made by a committee after full inquiry, in order to lighten the burden of the tax-payer.

As for Mr. Forrester's resolution, I must oppose it with all the emphasis that I can command. Mr. Forrester's resolution practically comes to this, that each member of the Council, whether he has to spend any money for coming to Calcutta or not, whether he regularly attends the Council or not, is to get an allowance of Rs. 3,000 a year, costing the tax-payer more than Rs. 3 lakhs a year, whereas the present arrangement barely costs Rs. 1½ lakhs a year. At present, a member who does not come to Calcutta does not get his travelling allowance, nor does a member who absents himself from the Council get any residential allowance. Is it Mr. Campbell Forrester's desire that all Councillors should get their fixed pocket money, whether they attend Council or not?

Much has been said about mufassal and Calcutta members, but can it be denied that the mufassal members are paid only to recoup them for the actual cost of their travelling and residential expenses? Does Mr. Campbell Forrester want that the Calcutta members should draw an allowance, though they may not have to spend a single pice out of their pocket? If there is a suspicion that the mufassal member makes a profit out of his allowances, let the committee draw up a standard rate, which will not admit of any profit. I can understand this attitude, but I cannot understand how this gives the Calcutta members any better right to get an allowance.

The time devoted to the work of the Council should not require any value in return. By fixing the time of the sitting of the Council at 3 P.M. the advantage of the Calcutta members has been more than fully met at the cost of many mufassal members, who have to spend more

days in Calcutta at the sacrifice of their business in the mufassal. But they have not grudged it and they do not grudge it. But, when the procedure of the Council is being changed in such a way as to waste the time of the members by the refusal to take up non-official business on days which had been previously fixed for official business, even if there is sufficient spare time, the occasion is serious enough for the Calcutta members to show some sympathy with their mufassal brethren.

A proposal, very similar to the one moved by Mr. Campbell Forrester, was moved in this Council nearly a year ago, but the outburst of opposition was so vehement that the mover, Babu Nirode Behari Mullick, promptly withdrew it. I do not know what has happened since then to change the attitude of this Council, that Mr. Campbell Forrester should make a persistent attempt to bring this motion before the House. Or is it because this Council has been able to fasten a burden of three new taxations round the necks of the taxpayers of Bengal, that it should now come forward to take some share in the spoils (if I may be permitted to use the expression) for its members?

I do not know what Mr. Campbell Forrester's constituency has to say about the matter, but as an average tax-payer, the proposition of supplying pocket money to the members of a Council, which has saddled this province with a tax of Rs. 14 crores, which has not been able to reduce the high salary of the Ministers, and which has yet practically done nothing to justify its existence, is one which seems intolerable. The country will have none of it, and it would be a mean trick to go against the country in this matter, simply because we have the power of the purse with us. Let us not forget that we are only the custodians of the people's money.

Glib comparisons have been made with other legislative bodies, where the members are paid fixed allowances. Comparisons are often odious, and I hope the members will not forget that it was nearly 600 years after the establishment of the British Parliament that the members consented to take an allowance. The time for the Bengal Legislative Council has not arrived yet.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I rise to a point of order, Sir. I challenge the statement that it was nearly 600 years after the establishment of the British Parliament that its members consented to take an allowance. In fact, the members of Parliament were paid by their constituencies until the year 1681.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You can say, whatever you have got to say, afterwards.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I rise to oppose the second motion. Some time ago when we entered this Council, we heard many of the members saying that we must reduce the number of Executive

Councillors, the number of Ministers and attempts were actually made to reduce their number. Strong attempts were also made to reduce the salary of the Ministers, but how is it that this attitude is changed? The proposal amounts to saying that "everybody is getting something, let us see if we can get something too." Is that the idea? Only about a year and a half ago we were elected by the rate-payers as non-official members and elected under certain conditions that we were not to get anything by way of salary or allowance or whatever you may call them. Have circumstances changed after a year and a half, for which we now cannot do this work without some sort of remuneration? The only change of circumstances is that the Government with its ordinary income could not meet its ordinary expenditure, and for this we had recently to pass three Acts which were represented by some of our friends as repressive, oppressive and what not, and even it was described as taking the life-blood of the poor raiyats. Are you going to share amongst ourselves a portion of that life-blood that arose out of the enactments passed during the last session?

Then it was said we should look towards our half-fed, dying countrymen by whom we are sent here to represent their interests. I hope all the members, whether from the mufassal or the town, will not forget those half-fed persons here. Instead of representing their interests, I hope my friends will not try to create a permanent self-interest in this Council by getting Rs. 3,000 a year.

After we got the Reformed Council, we ought to make some sacrifice, and is it as a reward for our service to the country and to our constituency, that we want some money for ourselves out of the recent additional income? I do not think that any of the elected members of the Council will support the resolution that we must have Rs. 3,000 per annum for ourselves, and it is certain that in that case we shall have to pass another taxation measure to meet the expenditure.

As for Mr. Dutt's resolution, I leave it to the mufassal members who are interested in it.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: In connection with the budget debate during the last session, the conviction was borne upon me that a good deal of money could be saved by effecting substantial retrenchments in travelling expenses all round, and at that time a very valuable suggestion was made by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan that instead of considering it in a piecemeal fashion, the whole question should be taken up in all its bearings, and a full-dress debate should take place in the House. In the meantime, a retrenchment committee has been appointed by this Government, and I hope that the whole question will be seriously taken up by that body. I greatly thank my friend, Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, for bringing in this resolution, because it is, I take it, a feeler. I have been saying all along that in this matter —after paying due regard to the interests of our mufassal friends—

something should be done to effect retrenchments in this connection, and I think we, the members of this Council, should set an example in this matter. If we can carry this resolution in a whole-hearted manner, perhaps this will prove the thin end of the wedge. This will gradually lead to a reduction in travelling allowances paid to Government officers. If I mistake not, such a thing has taken place in the Madras Presidency. The matter has actually been considered there and passed. It will be disastrous, under the present circumstances, if an impression goes abroad that in the face of the present circumstances—the Legislative Council having already passed three taxation measures to meet the ordinary expenses of Government and the Government embarking on a loan policy—we have assembled here to make money out of travelling allowances. Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution, looked at from a selfish point of view, will be a great boon to me, a poor educationist. Surely, if I can add Rs. 250 a month to my income, personally it will be of great help to me, but it would be disastrous in the interests of the country. What we have got to look to here is that our mufassal brethren should not be put to any expenses or trouble. They must not be put out of pocket. If the first resolution is carried, I ask, subject to correction, whether the mufassal members will be put to any serious inconvenience. (Cries of "yes" "yes.") Well, then, it is certainly a matter to be looked into, if that be the fact. I thoroughly agree with my old and esteemed friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration that it will not add to our dignity if we travel first. I am told that the late Mr. Gladstone used to travel third. We would simply wish our high Government officials to set an example here for our edification and instruction. Dignity is not attached to the class of trains in which we travel, but to our character, honesty, uprightness, fearless courage and sturdy independence. (A voice: "What about comforts?") I have never enjoyed many comforts in my life and have not much experience in that direction. A zamindar does need these things and he can afford to pay for them.

In conclusion, I say I am heartily in favour of Mr. Dutt's resolution.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: With your permission, Sir, I should deal with these resolutions separately, because I find that I have not vision enough to trace the points of contact between these resolutions and treat them comprehensively. We have heard of assemblies which have endeavoured to increase and have indeed succeeded in increasing their emoluments and their prestige; but we have not heard of a Council or an assembly which desires to cut down its privileges I am afraid that not many of us here are young plutocrats of Calcutta who can afford to punctuate Mr. Dutt's speech with appreciative remarks; and I feel, for the sake of the mufassal members, that I must oppose his resolution, even at the risk of being considered a selfish sycophant, because, and I hope the member will agree with me, if we

have earned the appellation of selfish sycophants for our past misdeeds, we shall not wipe it off by this doubtful act of self-abnegation. Mr. Dutt has forgotten that retrenchment is just the reverse of charity; and, therefore, according to the genius of the English language, we are not called upon to exercise it on ourselves first. We find, indeed, that we cannot possibly leave Gladstone out of consideration when we are discussing travelling allowances; but the example of Gladstone does not affect the non-official members. Let the hon'ble members of the Government derive edification and guidance from it, if they desire to do so and their names too will be handed down to prosperity. ("Hear, hear.")

As regards Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution, I must confess my weakness and my cupidity that I am in sympathy with it. ("Hear, hear.") Rupees 3,000 a year, where there is nothing, is an attraction, especially when we have a notion that some mufassal members, at any rate, do not need to expend as much as they draw and may be laying by something for the purpose of private charity, which I consider to be more advantageous than Government charity. Moreover, it calls attention to the fact that even the Calcutta members who have to come here to attend the Council, have to suffer a considerable amount in their work as well as in their emoluments and have to undergo sacrifices which they can ill-afford. But though I am in sympathy with Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution, I feel that the condition of the country at the present moment cannot justify me in supporting it, and, realising that we might at the present moment be considered, with a certain amount of justification, to be untrue to our charge, I must oppose his resolution, though with regret. I believe that the *status quo*, is sound and reasonable, and I therefore also oppose the resolution which would send the consideration of the subject to the committee.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Thursday, the 6th July, 1922, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 6th July, 1922 at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 100 nominated and elected members.

Oath.

Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, I.C.S., took an oath of his allegiance to the Crown.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Excise duty on foreign liquor.

***LI. Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) With reference to my starred question XVI, asked on the 21st November, 1921, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the Government have now levied an excise duty on foreign liquor?

(*b*) If so, what is the additional revenue estimated to be derived from this duty for this year?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The additional revenue is estimated roughly at Rs. 3,50,000

Statement of Mr. C. R. Das after his conviction.

***LII. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the Government have yet fully considered the allegations openly made by Mr. C. R. Das against the legality of his conviction?

(*f*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what is the decision of the Government regarding this matter?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any legal opinion has been taken on the subject referred to in clause (*a*)?

(*d*) If so, whose opinion and what is that opinion?

(*e*) If not, what is the reason for not taking legal opinion?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): The member is referred to the answer given to a question on the subject asked by Dr. A. Suhrawardy at this meeting.

Solitary confinement of two political prisoners in the Pabna Jail.

***LIII. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** With reference to the answer given to my starred question No. XX, about the confinement in cells of two political prisoners in the Pabna Jail at the sitting of the Bengal Legislative Council on the 22nd February last, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the result of the inquiry which was being made as regards parts (*g*) and (*h*) of the said question?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): It is reported that the non-official visitors inquired into the reasons for the separate confinement of the prisoners and they were supplied to them. A circular order, which one of them wanted to see, was, however, not produced as it was confidential.

Corrupt practices.

***LIV. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that proceedings on charges of corrupt practices are often taken against ministerial officers of courts and other public offices with varying results?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the advisability of appointing a committee to inquire into the corrupt practices which are alleged to exist in the various offices and departments under the Government of Bengal as has been done in the Punjab?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes. The member is referred to the statements attached to the Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Bengal, which show the results of such cases.

(*b*) No.

Reports on the condition of the health of certain political prisoners.

***LV. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to place on the table the latest medical reports on the condition of the health of Mr. C. R. Das, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Babu Shyamsundar Chakravarty and Mr. B. N. Sasmal?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Mr. B. N. Sasmal has been losing weight for some time past?

(*c*) If so, is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state the reasons thereof and also the steps, if any, that Government have taken to prevent it?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the circumstances under which Mr. Wazed Ali Khan Panee was released?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The latest medical reports are placed on the table.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes. The loss of weight is attributed to a deviation from the standard of living to which Mr. Sasmal was accustomed when at liberty There is no illness to account for it and for a man of Mr. Sasmal's physique it is not considered a serious loss. Mr. Sasmal was offered extras and milk from the hospital, but he refused.

(*d*) He was released on the application of the Jail Superintendent on the ground that he was seriously ill.

Latest medical reports referred to in the reply to starred question No. LV (a) on the condition of the health of Mr. C. R. Das, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Babu Shyamsundar Chakravarty and Mr. B. N. Sasmal.

Mr. C. R. Das.—He has very much improved in health recently and is now in a good state of health. His weight on admission was 177 lbs. and his present weight on 22nd June is 177½ lbs The low fever from which Mr. C. R Das suffered in March and April has now disappeared. Occasionally only at long intervals there is an evening rise up to 99°.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.—Two weeks ago he had a slight attack of indigestion and diarrhœa, now cured, he is under his own medical man's treatment, but is receiving *diet* from the jail hospital. General state of health is good.

Babu Shyamsundar Chakravarty.—He is suffering from slight dyspepsia and some slight stomatitis, is under hospital treatment and receiving hospital diet. Weight is the same as on admission. General state of health is good.

Mr. B N. Sasmal.—General state of health is good according to the medical officer's opinion and his own statements. He has suffered some loss of weight

***LV-A. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** *Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Mr. Sasmal submitted a formal application to the Jail Superintendent for permission to have fruits and that that application was refused, that Mr. Sasmal requested the Jail Superintendent to forward his application to have fruits to the Inspector-General of Prisons and that that application too was not sent up?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am not aware of that.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is it a fact that Mr. Sasmal has been suffering from piles? Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that when that fact was brought to the notice of the Jail Superintendent and Mr. Sasmal asked for some fruits, no notice was taken of his prayer?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am not aware of that.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is it a fact that Mr. Sasmal has lately developed symptoms of diabetes and that sugar has been detected by an examination of his urine?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am not aware of that.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member take the trouble of investigating all these?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I would ask for notice.

Instructions regulating the use of firearms by the police.

***LVI. Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating issuing instructions regulating the use of firearms by armed forces or Gurkhas and of restricting their use so as to require the previous sanction of the local Government, or, in cases of emergency, the sanction of a magistrate of the first class, before firearms are used?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): Instructions regarding the use of firearms by the police in the suppression of disorders are contained in Police Regulations, Bengal, Volume 3, rule 178, a copy of which may be consulted in the Council Library. In February last Government drew the attention of its officers to these standing orders. It is not proposed to issue any further instructions.

Statement of Mr. C. R. Das after his conviction.

***LVII. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn to the statement of Mr. C. R. Das after his conviction by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta?

(*b*) Are the Government intending to take any steps regarding the case by the light of the said statement?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member been drawn to the evidence of the handwriting experts in the said case?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

Dacoities committed in Bengal.

***LVIII. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:—

(*i*) the number of dacoities or alleged dacoities committed in Bengal within the last six months;

(*ii*) the exact number of cases of dacoities or alleged dacoities in each district;

(*iii*) the number of cases detected;

(*iv*) the number of cases under investigation;

(*v*) the total number of accused sent up for trial in each case;

(*vi*) the actual number of convictions; and

(*vii*) the total expenditure incurred for each case—

(*a*) detected, and

(*b*) undetected?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*i*) 552. The figures on record are for the six months ending 31st March.

(*ii*) to (*vi*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*vii*) It is not possible to calculate this.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. LVIII showing number of dacoities in Bengal during the six months ending 31st March, 1922.

DISTRICT.	Number of cases of dacoities reported in each district	Number of cases detected.	Number of cases under investigation.	Total number of accused sent up for trial.	Actual number of convictions	Number of accused under trial.
Jessore ...	7	6	4	15 in 3 cases ...	Nil	5
Khulna ...	6	3	Nil	6 in 2 cases ...	Nil	5
Murshidabad ...	21	4	2	4 in 2 cases ...	1	3
Nadia ...	24	12	3	33 in 8 cases ...	4	20

DISTRICT.	Number of cases of dacoities reported in each district.	Number of cases detected.	Number of cases under investigation.	Total number of accused sent up for trial.	Actual number of convictions.	Number of accused under trial.
24-Parganas ...	35	12	10	38 in 7 cases ...	Nil	35
Bankura ...	13	2	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Birbhum ..	9	5	2	28 in 4 cases ...	25	Nil
Burdwan ...	24	4	1	19 in 3 cases ...	2	10
Hooghly ...	25	7	6	15 in 3 cases ...	9	3
Howrah ...	13	3	2	17 in 2 cases ...	3	6
Midnapore ...	87	14	15	35 in 7 cases ...	5	22
Bogra ...	17	4	1	5 in 1 case ...	Nil	5
Darjeeling ...	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dinajpur ...	39	7	Nil	13 in 3 cases ...	Nil	9
Jalpaiguri ...	23	8	1	25 in 5 cases ...	10	10
Malda ...	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pabna ...	16	6	Nil	26 in 6 cases ...	Nil	26
Rajshahi ...	13	6	6	27 in 3 cases ...	Nil	26
Rangpur ...	49	10	5	23 in 6 cases ...	4	18
Dacca ...	25	10	10	17 in 4 cases ...	3	8
Mymensingh ...	35	8	13	16 in 3 cases ...	1	13
Tippera ...	19	6	12	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bakarganj ...	19	12	5	45 in 9 cases ...	11	27
Chittagong ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Faridpur ...	14	4	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Noakhali ...	2	2	Nil	6 in 2 cases ...	Nil	2
Calcutta—						
Town and Suburbs ...	6	1	1	9 in 1 case ...	Nil	9
	552					

Statements of Mr. C. R. Das after his conviction.

***LIX. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) With reference to the answer to a question by Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta on the statement made by Mr. C. R. Das after his conviction questioning the legality of his case, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the decision of the Government on the matter?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the opinions of the Advocate-General and other counsel have been taken on the legality or otherwise of Mr. C. R. Das's conviction?

(*c*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay them on the table?

(*d*) If no opinions have been obtained, are the Government considering the desirability of obtaining them as soon as possible?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The Government have fully investigated all the statements made by Mr. C. R. Das and have decided to take no action in the matter. They are not prepared to give any further information on the subject.

***LIX-A. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member me pleased to state the reasons for Government's refusal to give any further information? Am I not entitled to answer to my question? Is silence the answer?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Government are not prepared to give any further information than what is contained in the reply.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state his reasons for refusing to answer the question? Is it in the interest of the State?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I rise to a point of order, Sir.

THE DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): It is no question and you cannot put it.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I put the question—you may disallow it if you like.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Raiyatwari settlements of arable lands in the Sunderbans.

106. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue)

be pleased to state whether the raiyatwari settlements of arable lands in the Sunderbans are made in perpetuity? If not, generally for what period are such leases granted?

(*b*) Can occupancy right accrue in these lands?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the raiyat enjoys no right to transfer freely his holding or even a part of his holding?

(*d*) What is the prevailing rate of rent at which such settlements are made?

(*e*) What is the estimated gross produce of a bigha of land comprised in such a settlement?

(*f*) What is the maximum quantity of land for which such lease is granted?

(*g*) Is it a fact that a raiyat is not allowed to acquire more than a hundred bighas of land even by way of transfer?

(*h*) In what respects do such raiyats under the Government enjoy better rights than those under private landlords?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Settlements of the land are practically made in perpetuity, subject to certain conditions and to revision of rent usually after a period of 15 years.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A free right of transfer is not recognised.

(*d*) No rent is charged for the first three years of settlement. The subsequent rent is fixed after consideration of the economic circumstances.

(*e*) The information is not available.

(*f*) The maximum area of an original grant is limited to 75 bighas.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) The raiyat under the Government enjoys better rights than those under private landlords in the following respects:—

(*1*) No abwabs are levied and strict supervision is maintained over the collecting staff to see that they do not oppress the tenants.

(*2*) The raiyatwari settlement prevents the intervention of middlemen who profit at the expense of the actual cultivators.

(*3*) No *salami* is charged when land is first granted or where transfers are made with the permission of the Collector.

(*4*) Government maintain the outer embankment at their own expense.

Kanchrapara Jail building.

107. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased

to state the total cost of the Jail buildings constructed at Kanchrapara and the cost of their electric fittings?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the building is at present occupied?

(*c*) If not, how does he propose utilising it?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of handing it over to some charitable or educational institution or of leasing it out or selling it off outright?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The expenditure up to end of May, 1922, was Rs. 1,55,145. No expenditure has been incurred on electric fittings.

(*b*) It is not occupied at present.

(*c*) and (*d*) The question of its utilisation is under the consideration of Government.

Method of recruitment for the Department of Registration and for the subordinate police service.

108. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the method of recruitment for the Department of Registration and for the subordinate police service during the present year?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The method of recruitment is the same as in previous years.

Applications of Zamindars for "certificate" powers.

109. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, under the following heads, the number of applications that have been made by zamindars or landholders praying for "certificate" powers (powers under the Public Demands Recovery Act) for the realisation of rent from their tenants:—

(*i*) the number of applications made during the last 12 months, showing also number of such applications as have been recommended by the district authorities, and the number of applications granted by the Government;

(*ii*) the average number of such applications during the previous five years; also showing the average number of such applications as were recommended by the district authorities and such as were granted by Government; and

(*iii*) the principle on which the recommendations were generally made—

(I) during the last 12 months;

(II) during the five previous years?

(*b*) Have there been any applications made during the last 12 months, alleging the non-co-operation movement as a ground for obtaining the "certificate" powers? If so, how many?

(*c*) Have the district authorities, before recommending any of the applications, made inquiries into these applications and satisfied themselves that the grounds shown were correct and were not likely to be a source of oppression on the tenants?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) A statement is placed on the table.

(*b*) Yes; 12 applications.

(*c*) No application is granted by Government unless they are satisfied that there are good grounds and that it is not likely to be a source of oppression on the tenants.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 109, showing the number of applications made by zamindars or landholders praying for certificate powers (powers under the Public Demands Recovery Act) for the realisation of rent from their tenants.

(*i*) Number of applications made during the last twelve months.	13.
Number of applications recommended by District authorities.	9.
Number of applications granted by Government.	No application has been granted as yet.
(*ii*) Average number of applications during the previous five years.	3·2.
Average number of applications recommended by District authorities.	1·6.
Average number of applications granted by Government.	1·4.
(*iii*) Principles on which recommendations were generally made:—	
(I) during the last 12 months	The applications were recommended to save from ruin landlords, who, on account of the concerted action of their tenants found it impossible to realise their rents and the ordinary law for realisation of rent did not meet the situation sufficiently.

(II) during the five previous years.	Each case was dealt with on its own merits. The application of the Raja of Mahisadal in district Midnapore was recommended in view of the importance of the estate, the public spirit displayed by the landlord and the good relations which the estate had always maintained with its tenants prior to the present trouble. The application of one estate in Mymensingh was recommended with a view to save an old loyal family from utter ruin. The case of two other estates, one in Malda and the other in Dacca, was recommended, because a portion of each estate was under the management of the Court of Wards and as such enjoyed the benefits of the certificate procedure and it was necessary to extend the concession to the remaining portions of the two estates to make the condition of things similar in the different portions of those estates.

Control of the Finance Department over the schemes of the Reserved and Transferred Departments.

110. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what control, if any, the Finance Department exercises on—

(*i*) schemes of the Reserved Departments;

(*ii*) schemes of the Transferred Departments?

(*b*) Is it possible, under the existing rules, for the Finance Department to scrutinise or reject any scheme approved by any Minister?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): (*a*) The member is referred to Rules 37—45 of the Devolution Rules, in which the functions and powers of the Finance Department in respect of expenditure are defined. There is no distinction between the Reserved and Transferred Departments in regard to this matter.

(*b*) It is the duty of the Finance Department to scrutinise all proposals involving expenditure whether on the reserved or on the transferred side. The Finance Department is not empowered to overrule the Member or Minister in charge of any other department, but it may under Rule 44 require such department to submit any matter, on which the Finance Department is required to advise or report, to the Governor for the orders of the local Government.

Chaining of under-trial prisoners.

111. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the under-trial prisoners are chained round their waists when taken out for any work?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of discontinuing the practice or making some distinction in the matter according to the nature of the offences with which they are charged?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Protection of the water-tanks on the Eastern Bengal Railway and steamer ghat stations from pollution.

112. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that in many stations of the Eastern Bengal Railway the coolies wash their bodies by dipping their napkins in the reservoirs for drinking water and that the confectionary sellers in those stations and the khalasis of the passenger steamers of the Joint Steamer Companies take out water from the opening at the top of the reservoirs for drinking water by dipping the buckets into them without washing the latter?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of moving the Eastern Bengal Railway and the Joint Steamer Companies to protect the reservoirs for drinking water from contamination by keeping the opening at the top under lock and key?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) The allegations will be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned.

Work of the Muhammadan fasting prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail.

113. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware that special class prisoners in the Punjab Jails were not required to work between 12 noon and 2 P.M. during the summer months?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that special class prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail were not required to do any work during those hours until very recently?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the date on which, and the circumstances under which, such prisoners were made to work?

(*d*) Is it a fact that all special class prisoners, including Muhammadan fasting prisoners, in the Alipore Central Jail were made to work during the month of *Ramzan*?

(*e*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list containing:—

(*i*) the names of the prisoners; and

(*ii*) the nature of work assigned to each?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) and (*c*) Special class prisoners are not required to work between 10-30 A.M. and 1-30 P.M. during the summer season as laid down in rule 774 of the Jail Code.

(*d*) and (*e*) Yes. Lists I and II showing the names and the nature of work allotted to special class and ordinary prisoners, who observed *Ramzan*, respectively, are placed on the table.

List I

Showing the special class prisoners who observed "Ramzam" and the nature of work allotted to them, referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 113 (d) and (e).

Press work, viz., envelope-making, etc.—

1. Wazed Ali Khan Panee.
2. Moulvie Abul Kalam Azad.
3. Moulvie Akram Khan.
4. Moulvie Majibar Rahaman.
5. Moulvie Nazir Ahamed.
6. Moulvie Abdul Karim.
7. Haji Abdul Rashid Khan.
8. Moulvie Shamsuddin Ahamed.
9. Syed Jallauddin Hassen.
10. Moulvie Abdul Rouf.
11. Peer Badsha Mia.
12. Jaynal Abedin.
13. Moulvie Afsaruddin.
14. Moulvie Johurali Ahamed.
15. Abdul Halim.
16. Abdul Kuddas.

17. Hakim Saider Rahaman.
18. Moulvie Shaique Ahamed Osmani.
19. Mahamed Osman.
20. Mahamed Taha.
21. Mahamed Hashim.
22. Bakharali.
23. Noor Mahamed.
24. Abul Alam.
25. Wasil Sheik.
26. Bainuddi Mal.

N.B.—Five prisoners have been released since then.

List II

Showing the ordinary prisoners who observed "Ramzam" and the nature of work allotted to them.

Press work—

7118A. Sk. Amanath.
16013A. Fazar Sk.
18265A. Shakhiuddin Dhali.
12165A. Fakir Mahamed.
3340A. Osman Laskar.
5612A. Pachai Mollah.
2044A. Rajabali Sk.
3143A. Asmatali.
13075A. Rahimbox.
13075A. Khorshedali (released).
15921A. Abdul Ashan Nashkar (released)
7415A. Sabed Akunji.
815A. Kaloo Sk.
5103A Kalachand Mallick.
4052A Kafiluddi Sk.
19311A Insan Sk.
19914A. Moula Teudal.
2535B. Hatem Sk.
1732A. Amir Hossein.
5229A. Sk. Kobbat.
6656A. Farzan Mondal.
5102A. Wahed Bux.
5432A. Akkas Gazi.
6983A. Aboo Sk.
7421A. Abbas Kazi.
2226A. Tazoo Mondal.
3067A. Sabir Mahalader.
7457A. Palan Sk.
3152A. Kaminuddin Mollah.
1530A. Tamijuddin Mondal.
803A. Montaz Munshi.
7420A. Shitabdi Gazi.
3145A. Abdul Hamid.

3433A. Montazuddin.
7310B. Sk. Ishaque.
6989A. Bali Sk.
5922A. Sk. Chamari.
12161A. Benali Sk.
3649B. Naderali.
7173B. Sk. Rostam.
7131B. Amaddin Biswas.
7030B. Hamid Sk.
4207B. Moslem Mollah.
3766B Mohosain Mollah.
6982B. Jabbar Sk.
4986A. Rahman Mondal.
4132B. Ejahar Haldar.
3627B Harifah Khan.
3650B. Jinatullah.
3768B. Kobbad Sk.
16259A. Basiruddi Haldar.
3144A. Ganjuddi.
2870A. Tamijuddi Mollah.
3636A. Fulsarif.
5445A. Mohammad.
1312A. Mobarak Sk.
3111A. Mohammad.
4641A. Umarali.
4977A. Dedar Sk.
3943A. Jonabali
3637A. Hasimuddi.
812A. Benode Mollah.
7008 Kaloo Sk.
17690. Sk. Yunus.
3127. Sk. Jahedali Bagha
7015. Ebrahim Sk.
4503. Jamoo Sk.
6956. Umarali.
6599 Daem Sk.
7220 Etbar Baddi.
3068. Panchoo Sikdhar.
7019. Yakoob Sk.
5187. Nasimuddin Khan.
7582. Abedali Khan.
2860A. Abdul Khaleq.
18307A. Akramali Pandit.
6531A. Mandar Fakir.
158A. Kharjoon Sk.
2045A. Gaharali.
3774A. Sashi Mehana.
3657A. Mohar Mollah.
2868A. Gani Mollah.
4385A. Meajan Sk.
5055A. Abdul Sovan Sardar.
7524. Ekkana Sardar.
2042A. Aminuddi Fakir.
4982. Kasimuddi.
7014. Felu Sk.

7070. Muqshed.
3350. Sk. Nuru.
6951. Uzir Sk.
2812A. Khosiruddi.
2298. Sk. Idu.
2020A. Mafez.
7136B. Kadu Gani.
5561B. Abdul Taher.
6993B. Jabedali Sk.
6434B. Sk. Kassem.
2947B. Munshi Darab Khan
2172B. Manu Sk.
6977B. Ibrahim Sk.
6483B. Imani Sk.
6608B. Fakir Md.
10741B. Asgarali Sk.
4504B. Jonab Sk.
14363B. Kassemali Sk.
7124B. Sabdar Sk.
2512B. Imamali Kazi.
18036B. Abdul Rahman.
2808B. Sonamuddi.
2028B. Jabbarali.
4931B. Abdul Hamid.
5850B. Ejid Mallick.
5322B Haranal Rasid.
4478B. Ismail Munshi.
4748B. Abdul Gani.
1978A. Abdul Samed.
18209A Tara Khan.
2030A. Tajemali.
4510A. Ismail Saodagar.
2047B. Momimuddin.
18208B. Alaf Gazi.
6966B. Mohammadali.
4748B. Abdul Gani.
4478B. Ismail Munshi.
6402B. Kalimuddi.
3157B. Fajuddi.
2027B. Arabali.
7056B. Sobrati.
2401B. Kanchan Sk.
3459B. Yakoob.
2182A. Abdul Azaz.
3644A. Cheragali.
18978A. Ismail Sk.
7414A. Mujam Sardar.
2038A. Abdul Chaukidar.
7065A. Imanali Mondal.
4863A. Afjal Khan.
1913A. Jenatullah Sk.
3643A. Sonamuddi Sk.
2091A. Golam Hakim.
15135A. Taribullah Sk.
7457A. Abdul Malek.

3183B. Madan Hawaldar.
2516B. Badlu Sardar.
3033. Mafezuddi Molla.
7425B Manik Sardar.
3634B. Tomezuddi Sardar.
4973. Bhagui Saikh.
6987B. Denatulla Saikh.
3950B. Abdul Saikh.
19036B. Tomezuddi Saikh.
4131B. Meher Haldar.
2898B. Badal Fakir.
12746B. Ali Khan.
3337A. Saikh Solaiman.
7055A Shaikh Bhola.
3334A. Erfan Molla.
7342A. Nur Md.
4479A. Abdul Gafur.
17273A. Badsha Miah.
19038A. Naimuddin Biswas
19144A. Ahad Saikh.
4579A. Hatem Saikh.
4673A. Abdul Rahaman.
4636A. Jonabali Biswas.
4472A. Momrej Saikh.
4188A. Riazuddin Saikh.
4048A. Zigir Saikh.
4606A. Ismail Dobashi.
3147A. Md. Ismail.
29038A. Fathe Mahamad Molla
4509A. Nasim Saikh.
4822A. Said Hossain.
3236A. Abdul Razak.
5746A. Seraz Saikh.
19035B. Khak Saikh.
4415A. Sahadat Miah.
15135B. Jamir Saikh
7026B. Abdul Mijit.

Cooks—

5474A. Yasin Shaik.
3287A. Sovan Shaik.
6632A. Shaik Mudi.
5972A. Chedi Khan.
5935A. Rahamat Sha.
6366A. Sk. Barka.
6633A. Sk. Rezak.
6631A. Sk. Ibrahim.

Rice-cleaning—

19770B. Dain Molla.
5480B. Naimuddi Sardar
5390B. Abdul Molla.
7787B. Kafiuddin Chowd
5744B. Sk. Abdul Rahaman.

Lil-grinding—

7314B. Bainuddi Naskar.
5306B. Khaluruddin.
3625B. Malai.
1656B. Dedar Bux.

Cow-shed—

2508A. Nazim Sikdar.
4054A. Dorabali Goladar.
2089A. Bairamuddin.
6119A. Intaz Khan.

Wall guard—

4077A. Mominuddin.
17257A Asgarali
3099A. Sultan Molla.
3136A. Ekramali Sardar.

Night watchman—

7133A. Khoda Bux.
7695A. Sk. Kaloo.

Convict overseer—

6445A. Aftabuddin.
3336A. Ismail Fakir.

Jute teasing—

Sk. Mogal.

Night watchman—

Dorai Ali.

Jute teasing—

3389A. Abdul Sattar.
3222B. Nazir Ahamad

Night watchman—

691A. Mohim Mondal.

Jute teasing—

Sk. Nehal.
17436B. Faijuddin.
Imamuddin Shaik.
Kachimuddin Naskar
Shaik Chamaru.
Saharuddin Molla.
Sk. Sashi.
Kamaruddin Khan.
Abdul Hai.
Sk. Babu.

Inside Faltoo—

5146A. Arman Miah.
5199A. Sk. Abdul Gafur.
640B. Sk. Mafizuddi.
7096B. Sk. Ahamad.

Sk. Mannu.
6635A. Dina Sardar.
1303A Bilat Ali
4966A. Said Abdul Gaffur.

Outside work—

7410B. Sukur Shaik.
19280A. Abdul Gani.
5326A. Abdul Molla.
800B. Sk. Rustam.
7235B. Mir Azij.
6954B. Ibrahim Molla.
7503B. Hazi Habil.
795A. Bahadur Sardar.
7652B. Sk. Yasin.
17148. Kowsar Ali.
4792A. Rahmatulla.
6969B. Ismail Shaik.

Undertrial prisoners—

Shabedali.
Ali Mahamad
Sk. Siddik.
Sk. Karim.
Dilbahar Gain.
Sk Habib Ochimuddin Molla
Md. Alam.
Ahamad Khan.
Sonabul Khan.
Miah Khan.
Gavi Fakir.
Chot Khan.
Solaiman.
Rajaullah.
Maharuddi.

Non-cultivation of certain low-lying localities in Eastern Bengal this year.

114. Babu BROJENDRA KISHORE RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether he is aware that in those localities in Eastern Bengal which are low-lying and subject to early inundation, the cultivators have had little opportunity of carrying on sowing operations owing to the lateness of the monsoon this year?

(*b*) Have the Government called for any special reports from the revenue officers in such localities as to the condition of the cultivators, the extent of the supply of food-stuffs there, and the prices at which they are available?

(*c*) Is it a fact that scarcity is already beginning to be felt in some of these localities?

(*d*) What steps are Government proposing to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) No. The late sowing of autumn rice has affected the crop to some extent, but jute and deep-water paddy are doing well.

(*b*) There has been no occasion to call for such reports.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

Expenditure on the Bengal Tenancy Act Committee meeting.

115. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state the amount which had to be paid by the Government in the shape of travelling allowance, etc., to the members of the Committee and to witnesses for the consideration of the Bengal Tenancy Act, in October and November, 1921, and in May, 1922, at Darjeeling?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for not holding the meetings in Calcutta?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of holding the meetings in future in Calcutta and not at Darjeeling?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Travelling allowance amounting to Rs. 3,100 was paid to the members of the Committee for attendance at nine meetings in Darjeeling in October, 1921; the payments for attendance at 15 meetings in Darjeeling in May, 1922, will probably amount to Rs. 2,900. The Committee has incurred no expenditure on account of witnesses.

(*b*) The Committee was appointed in August, 1921, and it became apparent at once that it would be necessary to hold a series of continuous meetings if it was to get through its task within any reasonable time. It was recognised that it would be impossible for the members to find time for continuous sittings during the cold weather session of the Council, and the majority decided that it would be best to begin work in Darjeeling in October. During the nine meetings then held the main principles on which the Act should be amended were settled. A Bill was then framed to give effect to the Committee's decisions and with great difficulty the members managed to hold eight meetings in Calcutta during the cold weather to consider the Bill. Little progress was, however, made, and it was evident that there was no prospect of getting through the Bill within any reasonable time unless a further series of meetings were held in Darjeeling during the hot weather; 15 further meetings were accordingly held in May, when the consideration of the Bill was completed. The report is now being drafted and will, it is hoped, be laid before the Committee within the next few weeks.

(*c*) Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the Committee as to the place of its future meetings.

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interst).

Travelling allowance, salary, etc., to members of Council.

The discussion on the travelling allowance, salary, etc., to members of Council was resumed.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I fully support the resolution of Mr. Dutt, but from what I have heard yesterday night from the Hon'ble Member I do not consider the mufassal members will welcome the proposal of Mr. Dutt. The Hon'ble Member said yesterday "that it is not desirable that members should travel second class and draw double first class fare." If that be the case, then the mover should withdraw his present resolution and bring a new one for double second class fare instead of single first class fare. I support the resolution of Mr. Dutt on this understanding that we will travel in the second class and draw single first class fare which is equivalent to double second class, but if we are to follow the observation of Government members, then it would be better to allow the member to draw double fare for the class in which he actually travels.

The resolution of Mr. Forrester no doubt will be welcomed by the members. But in order to carry on the present administration we have been forced to have recourse to fresh taxation. We are drawing a large sum of money by the present system of our travelling and halting allowances, and if the policy of salary be accepted, then a large amount of public money will be wasted; and when we are talking of curtailing the expenditure of minimising taxation even by reducing our travelling alowances, we are finding out fresh means for creating it. The amount allotted for travelling allowances for the members is Rs. 1,21,000. If this proposal is accepted we have to make provision for Rs. 3,45,000.

Like the members of the District Boards and Local Boards, those of this Council had no better idea of receiving any gratification for their works when they were elected, and it is good for the benefit of the country that they should stick to their principle. We, the poor Indians, cannot accept the principle of other rich countries.

The members of the Council do not attend the meetings regularly and if they attend they cannot remain even for the number of days the Council goes on with its sittings. They sometimes attend at the beginning or at the end of a part session, so they will have to be paid for the time when really they do not attend. At present the members are allowed their daily allowances according to their halt at Calcutta and they do not get any allowances when they remain at home during session or out of session, but if the salary system be adopted, then the Government will have to pay them for the time they remain at home during the session or out of session. If the mover has brought this resolution for the good

of the Calcutta members, then I think he ought to have moved for daily allowances for the number of days they work in the Council.

With these remarks, I oppose this resolution.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: We are thankful indeed to Mr. A. C. Dutt for moving his resolution about the reduction of travelling allowance and limiting it to single first class. I agree with him that the majority of the members, specially mufassal members, object to it for obvious reasons. The saving that is effected in travelling lower class is spent on other things which help mufassal members to maintain their dignity and comforts. Besides, one has got to consider that mufassal members have wives and children, assistants and servants. They can utilise the extra first class to defray the cost of their travelling to and from Calcutta. Besides, Rs. 10 per diem is not enough to pay for decent board and lodging. They are not accustomed to live in hotels where you can engage a room by the day or the week or the month. They also need gharry and taxi expenses when they are in town. It is very fine for a Calcutta barrister or a Calcutta landlord to say that mufassal members make a good deal out of their travelling allowance. He knows fully well that attending Council after 3 P.M. does not affect his business very much nor does it entail the same sacrifices as a mufassal member, pleader or a merchant is called upon to do. A mufassal member has to be absent from his business for long periods in Calcutta during Council sessions. Another important factor is that a Council barrister gets plenty of advertisement by his Council orations being published in the papers. I oppose Mr. Dutt's resolution.

As for Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution which he has moved very eloquently with convincing facts and figures, I accord it my whole-hearted support. There is no one in the Council, with any idea of the world's parliamentary institutions, who can object to the principle involved in Mr. Forrester's proposal.

The principle of payment to the people's parliamentary representatives has been accepted all over the world. It has been recognised to be one of the best means to get the best type of members. England alone refused to follow suit until 1911, although Mr. Gladstone had pressed for it in Parliament more than once. It was the Labour party, with Mr. Ramsay Macdonald as Chairman, that brought pressure on the Asquith Ministry after the scandalous judgment by the House of Lords in its judicial capacity known as the Osborne judgment. The Law Lords, at the instigation of capitalists, declared as illegal all payments to Labour members in Parliament and also election expenses by British Trade Unions. There was a general election and as soon as the Liberal party came into power, Mr. Lloyd George, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, moved the resolution which led to the sanction of a payment of £400 a year.

I have not heard a single strong argument by non-official members against this very modest proposal of Mr. Forrester. The trend of all political agitation in our country by the old and the new Congress shows that we want complete democracy to rule the affairs of this country; we cannot possibly tolerate that this Council should be the monopoly of men of means and power. We cannot possibly tolerate a majority of members who depend on unearned incomes—I mean zamindars and bankers; besides, there are well-to-do professional men.

What is the demand involved in this resolution? It is practically a demand from the democracy, which is labouring under a good many ills that legislation alone can remedy, and the people must have a choice of doctors—an unlimited choice of doctors—to cure those ills. It is all very fine to talk about gratuitous services for the country. Members of the Army, Civil Service, Judiciary, receive payments and serve their country well indeed. Is the professional soldier who fights and dies for his country less patriotic than a volunteer? He is probably a better soldier than a volunteer. Are not Judges paid for administering law? Why should the service of those who make the laws in Council be gratuitous? A Councillor, who is devoted to his duty conscientiously, is not less hard-worked than a High Court Judge who gets a long vacation. Sooner or later our Council business is bound to expand and we will have to spend as many days in the Council as they do in Parliament. The gratuitous service has been to some extent a curse to the country in the past and even now we appreciate it because of its past tradition. If I find an Indian ascetic charges money for medicine for an incurable disease, is he considered no good? If he does it gratis, we fall on his feet and consider him great. The missionaries and the members of the Salvation Army get paid for their noble work. Is this work less noble because it is paid for? I think not. I pass on to the arguments advanced by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson. He says that this demand is likely to extend to members of local and municipal bodies. The answer is that members of the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation, as well as Port Commissioners, get good fees varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 32.

The work in the municipality and our local bodies is nothing like as absorbing as the work of a member of Council if he does his work properly. I for one have taken an absorbing interest in my subject of labour, bought and read many a book, travelled hundreds of miles to get a real grasp of all the problems affecting Indian labour, and I dare say that most of my colleagues have done more and are doing more than I do.

Take an Honorary Magistrate. Do you think the quality of his work is extra good? I do not think so. The clerk does the most of the work. I give you my personal experience before a Calcutta Bench which I had to attend as a defendant in an S.P.C.A. case. A poor vendor was prosecuted for selling fruits or that kind of thing on the footpath.

The learned Magistrate asked what he had to say, but before he uttered a single word in defence the Bench clerk shouted "*Do ropya*" *i.e.*, a fine of Rs. 2, and the constable pulled him out of the dock. Who does the most work in a British municipality? The town clerk on £1,000 or so a year. So does the paid Vice-Chairman or Deputy-Chairman of our municipality. I am sure Mr. Mallik, the patriotic Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, will appreciate my remarks. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson's second point is that it was wrong to vote ourselves moneys without a mandate from our constituencies. My answer is that we do not need a mandate in this case. The electorate has trusted most of us with disbursement of 10 or 11 crores of rupees—surely they can trust in our integrity to vote for ourselves an extra sum of Rs. 2 lakhs, less than one-twentieth or one per cent. of our revenue. I quote what Mr. Arthur Lee, M.P., and an ex-Minister of the Navy, said in opposing Mr. Lloyd George's resolution for payment in 1911. He said:—

"I contend the Government cannot in any shape or form claim that they have a mandate and I entirely deny that the country has given any sanction either explicitly or tacitly to the proposal brought by the Government.

Yet the resolution of Mr. Llyod George was carried by a tremendous majority. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson's third point was that a proposal of this kind lowers the morality of a legislative body. I maintain, Sir, that it is just the other way about. I desire payment to members because I maintain that this Council, with new functions, wide field of operations, increased nearness to the lives of the common people, ought to come here free from all anxieties. Besides, the party system, with its degradation is soon going to be introduced here. In fact it is already in Delhi and there is a germ of it in Calcutta as well, and I have no doubt that secret and party funds will be soon available for party purposes and members will have to vote according to the bidding of the party that finds the funds. Payment to members will undoubtedly make this kind of thing difficult.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson's fourth point is that it will encourage professional politicians. Surely Rs. 3,000 a year, out of which to provide travelling and halting charges, is not a great inducement to attract men to the Council.

I therefore urge the members not to refuse to vote for Mr. Forrester's resolution on the bogey of gratitous services.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: In discussing the resolution of Mr. Dutt, it is necessary to note that he wishes the will of the House to be imposed upon. How, and to what extent, this is to be done is a matter for consideration. We must look to the convenience and comfort of the members, especially the mufassal members, who attend the Council. If a Calcutta member comes forward and says that sacrifice ought to be the order of the day and the members

who stay in Chittagong, Tippera, Comilla, Rajshahi would come forward to attend the Council without receipt of proper travelling expenses, I can see very well that the attendance of this Council would be a thin one. The strength of this Council is the mufassal members. Look, Sir, the way in which you had adjourned the Council from time to time for want of a quorum. We, the mufassal members, come here at a great personal sacrifice, inconvenience and discomfort simply for the sake of serving our country and nothing more than that. Well, Sir, so far as I am concerned, I am ready to forego all these, but here I am speaking on behalf of my mufassal friends, and on their behalf I say that the travelling allowances should not be reduced as suggested by Mr. Dutt. The practice which was in vogue in the days of the old Council, and the practice which is being observed now should not, in my opinion, be departed from. The question is a simple one and we must take a practical view of the matter. Therefore, my submission to the Council is, "Let things go on as they were."

If in the name of patriotism and self-sacrifice our constituencies are told by the Calcutta members that travelling expenses should be reduced, we, also, in the name of patriotism and self-sacrifice, say to our constituencies that we do, to the best of our ability, and at a great personal sacrifice, whatever we can to serve their interests and they may reasonably expect our interests should be equally looked to. Personally, I submit myself to the decision of the House—I am ready to make sacrifices which my Calcutta friend, Mr. Dutt, wishes me to make.

As regards Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution, I submit that it is a very reasonable suggestion, but in view of the financial condition of the province, I am afraid I am unable to support it at present. Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri is of opinion that the gratuitous service has been to some extent a curse to the country in the past. But it is not so. In our country, responsible works of public utility such as of Honorary Magistrates, Chairmen of local and district boards, municipalities, etc., are voluntarily taken up and creditably performed by men of patriotic feelings without any pecuniary benefit to themselves and at a sacrifice of personal interest. Therefore, in my opinion, it is a very dark and limited view of things as Mr. Chaudhuri is led to believe that honorary work is of no value. I wish Mr. Chaudhuri to go back to his home at Chandernagore and take up some honorary work. If he does take it up he will educate himself to it and not look for money because I know he is a patriot. Honorary work is a pleasure to those who have patriotic feelings in them, and I appeal to the House to consider whether Mr. Chaudhuri is right in holding that payment in money is the criterion of good work. The principle appears repugnant to me, and we should sacrifice ourselves, sacrifice our money and devote ourselves in the service of our motherland.

Before I resume my seat, I again repeat once more, let things continue on so far as to the rate of the travelling expenses and that it should not be reduced.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I consider it my duty to oppose the resolutions standing in the names of Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt and Mr. J. Campbell Forrester. The movers of these resolutions may have my sympathy, but cannot have my support. I personally feel that the dignity of the position of the members of this Council demands that they should travel first class, although I am aware there are some members who do not feel comfortable there. Mr. Stephenson has already said that double fares are allowed to cover the incidental expenses and one fare will hard hit the honest mufassal man. What I do object to is the objectionable practice of submitting a travelling allowance bill which is far from the truth. I know some members, who do not feel any hesitation in travelling in the lower classes and submitting a bill for the higher. This, I should say, is definitely a corrupt practice and the colleagues of those members do feel ashamed of them. If any member chooses to travel third class, I have no quarrel with him, but let him be truthful and honest and not cheat the Government and through them their own brethren, the taxpayers of this country.

The resolution of Mr. J. Campbell Forrester has a candour which is not only its redeeming feature, but is refreshing from several points of view. But I am sorry I cannot but oppose his resolution too. My first and foremost reason is that it will bring those members of the Council who ordinarily stay at Calcutta, like my humble self, into contempt and covert ridicule not only from the people of their own constituencies, but also from their friends and well-wishers here. It has been given out in the public press that we are out for loot and nothing but loot, and however much we may not like those remarks, the public will associate private gain with our connection with this Council. That is a position which I can hardly tolerate. The second reason is that granting that we become losers pecuniarily owing to our loss of time for such a length of time, it is open to the individual member, who seeks election, to relinquish his office in favour of some one who can afford to occupy the office without casting sidelong glances towards the public exchequer.

The third reason is that the word "salary" has got a stink which is not present in the word "allowance" and I believe none of the members here would like the idea of being a salaried servant of the State as I am unable to dissociate the two words "salary" and "servant" from one another. And it will be a legal question to decide whether by accepting a salary we, the elected members of this Council, are not likely to get automatically disqualified from holding our seats, as the rules under the Government of India Act which disqualify officials from getting elected

not quite clear and unambiguous from this point of view to a layman like myself.

My last point is that it will double the expenses of the Government which the people of this country cannot afford any longer, especially at a time when the Government, accepting the popular view, is out for retrenchment in all directions.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to offer my cordial and enthusiastic support to the resolution which has been moved by my friend, Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt. His proposal, to my mind, is an acid test of our sincerity regarding the question of retrenchment in public expenditure. Retrenchment, as has been pointed out by Mr. Dutt in his speech, has been our unceasing battle-cry since this Council has come into existence. Well, let us show by our action that we are prepared to practise what we are so fond of preaching. (A voice: by holding a high post.) I do not understand these senseless interruptions. In the matter of travelling allowance, there is undoubtedly room for economy and curtailment of expenditure. Does anybody doubt it? What did Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, a veteran mufassal member of this Council, say? In giving his enthusiastic assent to the proposal of my friend, Mr. Dutt, he said that mufassal members did not usually travel first class in coming to attend the meetings of the Council or in returning home, and therefore the payment of double first class fare was an extravagance in expenditure. In the face of this evidence coming from so respected and so experienced a mufassal member, it is idle to argue that we cannot come to a decision with regard to this matter without the assistance of a committee. We seem to have a mania for committees—a committee for this, a committee for that and a committee for everything. I altogether fail to understand what a committee is expected to do with regard to this matter. What is the investigation, what is the research that a committee is expected to do before we are able to make up our minds with regard to this question?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Hear, hear.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I appreciate the laudatory cheers from the Chairman of the Corporation. It is a well-known fact that the payment of double first class fare to mufassal members is a waste of public money, and if anybody has any doubts about it, they should be dissipated by the responsible statement which Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has made in this House

Now, Sir, I pass on to the somewhat strange proposal of my democratic friend, Mr. J. Campbell Forrester. He wants salaries to be paid to members of Council in order that this Council may come into line with other parliamentary assemblies in Europe and America. His argument reminds me of a passage in one of Lord Morley's Indian speeches

in which he exposes the fallacy underlying this kind of reasoning. Lord Morley said: "You might just as well say that because a fur coat in Canada at certain times of the year is a truly comfortable garment, therefore a fur coat in the Deccan is just the sort of garment that you would be delighted to wear." What is the fallacy that underlies my friend's main argument? It is surely this, that because a policy or a principle is true, vital and expedient in a certain definite set of circumstances, therefore it must be equally true, vital and expedient in a completely different set of circumstances. What sophism can be more gross and dangerous than this? Here in Bengal, in the face of an acute financial stringency, I might say an all-prevading bankruptcy—the Government is bankrupt, the Corporation is bankrupt, the University is bankrupt, everybody is bankrupt——

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Except the Improvement Trust.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: That too is bankrupt. Ask Mr. Emerson. In the face of persistent cries for retrenchment in every direction, in the face of the ravages of malaria, in the face of the dire poverty and penury of the people, my friend comes forward with the astounding proposal that members of this Council should be paid salaries for doing occasionally a little work for the country, because he thinks that otherwise——

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: My proposal is that the principle of payment be accepted.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: He thinks that otherwise the Council will not come into line with other parliamentary assemblies in Europe and America. Well, the argument is so preposterous that it has only got to be stated in order to realize its utter absurdity. Besides, let me tell my friend, Mr. Forrester, that the idea of payment for doing the work of the country as honest and independent men is foreign and repulsive to Indian sentiment and tradition. I hope, I devoutly hope, we shall never have in this country the pernicious system of payment of salaries to members of Council. We ought to disdain to accept salaries for doing occasionally a little work for the country. Our ambition should be to sit here as free men, free representatives of free constituencies, taking orders from no one, but striving to serve the country to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Let me now sum up. Every vote in favour of Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution is a vote that will stultify us altogether, and every vote given against Mr. Dutt's resolution is a vote that will lower us in the estimation of all honest men.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I must say that I oppose the idea of paying a salary or any other suggestion that would go towards enhancing the present cost of our Council. It has been said that

Democratic Governments are costly all over the world; but are we only to take the costliness of the democracy? Have democracy first, and then you will be entitled to go into all these expenses. Therefore, I strongly object to this proposal.

Then comes Mr. Forrester's suggestion that we must spend Rs. 2 lakhs more every year. Now Rs. 2 lakhs, taking into account the interest and sinking fund charges, will enable us to borrow Rs. 24 lakhs which could be better spent on education, sanitation, and other things. The question is: are we going to do that, or are we going to fill our own pockets with this additional sum of Rs. 2 lakhs? I therefore think that we ought not to go into this. Then, there is going to be a Retrenchment Committee. Let us see how savings can be effected. With all our efforts we have not been able to do much good to the country. Why then should we raise the expenditure? We are not justified in doing that. That is my humble submission to my brethren. Do not stultify yourselves by doing this, by trying to put some more money into your pockets.

Then, again, the present cost has already come up to nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs. This is quite a large sum, and people will naturally want to know what we have done to justify this expenditure for coming to the Council and going back. With these few observations, I am strongly of opinion that the rules should remain as they are for the present. We must wait till we gain more experience in the matter.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: My resolution also asks you to wait.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: The position is this—that we have got to explain our conduct before the country. Are we, in the present circumstances, justified in putting more money into our pockets? So far as the question of travelling allowance goes, I should think that one first class fare is quite sufficient.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: On the last occasion when such a motion as Mr. Campbell Forrester's was brought before the Council, I was the first to oppose it. On that occasion the mover had to beat a precipitate retreat in the face of the vehement opposition that was raised by such a resolution. It seems strange, therefore, that an attempt should be made to repeat it in the life-time of this Council. But we see that there is no dearth of boldness in this Council when we have got to serve our own ends and advance our own interests. Shakespeare has very rightly said that the "smooth-faced gentleman tickling commodity" often sways us in our conduct.

Now to examine Mr. Campbell Forrester's motion—well, I understand, he has advanced only two arguments of importance. His first argument is that this practice obtains in the British House of Commons and also in many American countries. Well, this practice may obtain

from China to Peru, but what of that? Can there be nothing different under the Indian sun? Do all exotic plants deserve to be grown on the Indian soil?

As regards the comparison with the House of Commons, certainly I think it is making a bit too much of our position. It reminds us of the story of the frog and the ox. Because the frog considers himself as much a quadruped as the ox, should he emulate the ox even at the risk of his life? Then Mr. Forrester makes another argument, *viz.*, that it is a business proposition. It is a business proposition indeed, but the country can hardly afford to have so many paid apprentices in the Legislative Council at this stage.

Then as regards the resolution to refer the matter to a committee, I think it is quite useless to do so. On this occasion I differ from my friend, Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta. What can a committee do in such a matter? The question is whether you will have double first class or double second class or single first class. You will have to travel and it is a matter for you to decide. And if you cannot make up your mind now in course of such a long discussion, you will never be able to do so. A committee will certainly be of little avail.

As regards Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri's remarks, I am quite surprised to find him so much enamoured of British practice and comparing the position and requirements of labour in the British politics and in the present-day politics of this country. He does not take into account the position of labour in the British Parliament and the number of Labour members over there and he simply forgets that here labour is honoured by one or two seats only and admitted only by the back-door of nomination. So long, therefore, this Council continues to be packed with men enjoying unearned income, that is, with the undesirables in the opinion of Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, the passage of a resolution like Mr. Campbell Forrester's will mean more undesirable results from Mr. Ray Chaudhuri's point of view as it will put more money into the pockets of persons enjoying unearned incomes.

Now coming to the resolution of Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, I wholeheartedly support it as a first step towards retrenchment—and specially as retrenchment directed against us. I suggested to Mr. Dutt, however, that he should have put in the resolution double second class instead of one first class, but Mr. Dutt was of opinion that it was better when one first class covered more than double second class. But what I am afraid of is that if the resolution be carried in its present form, persons drawing the travelling allowance may be obliged to make some misstatements. Yet of all the resolutions that have been moved in this connection, I approve of Mr. Dutt's and give it my support.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: When I came here this afternoon I found that every one had given up all hope of

being any non-official business to-day, and that we were all in a mood to talk, but after listening to the heroic speech of Mr. K. C. Ray Choudhuri and Mr. D. C. Ghose, I naturally felt that to-day's talks were going to be typically monsoonish in their character. One can, however, well afford not to take either of the two stormy orators seriously. Let me, therefore, come to the resolutions. I am afraid that I must oppose each and every one of them. I daresay that they will not stand the scrutiny of this House and are bound to be shelved as useless. To my mind resolutions of this kind only add to the bulk of our agenda and make it ridiculously unwieldy. They are responsible for really important resolutions being relegated to the background. Resolutions of this character cannot but promote idle talks which do not bring economy in their too swift currents but actually cause more money to flow out of the public exchequer, for they do take up the time of the Council which means so much money paid in the shape of residential allowance.

Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt seems to draw his inspiration from a master mind—a world-character—but he seems to forget that Gladstones are not blackberries—and they do not grow on every shrub. I would support him if we could produce a Gladstone by travelling in third class. Mr. Forrester on the other hand dreams of lands where poverty does not chill the hearts of the people as it does in our country, and where the majority are rich enough to make politics a costly pastime. Ours is a poor country and to my mind the existing rules meet the situation fairly well.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I beg to oppose all the resolutions which have been moved. Only recently a Retrenchment Committee has been formed and we do not know what will come out of it. Somehow or other this question came up some time ago, and if I remember aright it was suggested that if Government servants drawing first class were willing to take second class, we should be quite prepared to take second class fares also. Only 50 or 60 members of this Council draw double first class and this has been taken exception to, but, I submit, how many Government servants draw double first class? Until this question is decided I think it is premature to talk of all this. The Retrenchment Committee will go into the whole question, and let us see what they do in the matter.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: When the Reformed Council was constituted we got four Executive Councillors and three Ministers, each drawing a salary of Rs. 64,000 a year. Mr. D. C. Ghose was a whip at the time when the question of the Ministers' salary was under discussion——

Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN: Is he in order in saying this?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think he is quite in order.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED:——and he has now become an Assessor in the Improvement Trust drawing a salary of about Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 3,000 a month, and he poses to-day before you, Sir, as a man who stands up for retrenchment in order to save the poor of this country. A man drawing Rs. 3,000 a month poses as an advocate of retrenchment! I beg to submit Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt did also vote for the Ministers' salary when there was an attempt to reduce it, and all these gentlemen have now come forward to cut down the travelling and residential allowances of the mufassal members. Gentlemen who are residing in palatial buildings, Mr. Dutt and Mr. D. C. Ghose, are going to envy the Rs. 10 residential allowance of mufassal members.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: There is no such question before the House.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I beg to submit that residential allowance coupled with travelling allowance should be considered together. Do you know the inconvenience that is felt by the mufassal members? They have got here to find a roof under which to hide themselves, to reside and also to find food for themselves. I submit that double first class is no consideration whatever having regard to the inconvenience that is felt by the mufassal members. There are occasions when they miss the train in the middle of their journey. They then have to starve. Once I was in that plight. The Katiahar train did not reach Parbatipur at the proper time and the mail left. Then we had to travel all the way starving and reached Calcutta the next day at 2 o'clock at night. These are inconveniences that ought to be taken into consideration and double first class is nothing compared with these inconveniences. Then again, we have long sittings in this Council. Does not that dislocate the business of every business man in the mufassal? Do not mufassal members suffer pecuniarily on account of the absence from their places of business? I think that these things ought to be taken into consideration and double first class travelling allowance alone should not be taken into consideration and envied by the small fry. (Laughter.)

Then with regard to Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution, I beg to submit that he is not in earnest at present to fix the salaries of the members of this Council. He says that the resolution does not bind the Council to pay this year and I beg to submit that we should wait till the report of the Retrenchment Committee, which is presided over by an Indian and a Bengali, Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji, is received. I therefore oppose the resolutions of Mr. Dutt and of Mr. Campbell Forrester.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I beg to oppose all these resolutions. We have been listening to this debate since yesterday and, I think, I can say without any fear of contradiction, to no useful purpose. We

wasted one day and a good part of another and there is very little time for other business to be taken up. There are one or two matters to which I would like to draw the attention of this Council in connection with this debate. I am not a mufassal member. Most unfortunately, ever since the inauguration of the Legislative Council—I am speaking of the olden days—I have not been fortunate enough to put a single pice of money into my pocket whether as travelling or residential allowance. I am quite sure that if Mr. Campbell Forrester's resolution was carried out, I would have been a gainer to the extent of Rs. 3,000 a year, but then, what would have been my gain, would have amounted to a loss of Rs. 2 lakhs to the tax-payers. I do not think that I can conscientiously support a proposal like that. Coming, Sir, to the proposition of Mr. A. C. Dutt I would like to point out that it is false economy to cut down the travelling allowance or residential allowance of the mufassal members. A member from the mufassal coming to Calcutta has to put up with various inconveniences. Men living in Calcutta do not know that for a man to absent himself from his ordinary vocations at home is a loss which can seldom be compensated by money. There are some losses which cannot be compensated and mufassal members have to put up with all that at the call of duty. Instead of grudging the ten rupees I think that that money ought to be very gladly given.

Now there is another point. Who are the members who are pressing the reduction? As regards Mr. Dutt I need not say anything but I do not think that my friend Mr. Ghose can certainly advocate a reduction of that sum. We live in Calcutta and as members of the General Committee of the Corporation we draw Rs. 20 per meeting. Are we justified in drawing that money from the Corporation while the Corporation is bankrupt? Will Mr. D. C. Ghose forego his Rs. 20 a day? First make sacrifices yourself and then talk of sacrifices of others. I think that the best course for all of us would be if the movers of these resolutions would be kind enough to withdraw them and stop further discussion.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I move that the question be now put. I think that that is the general opinion of this House.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I do not think so. I think that there are still a few members who would like to speak.

Raj RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have listened to the debate since yesterday and although I was a little late, I was very fortunate in coming just in time to listen to the exquisite speech of my esteemed and eloquent friend Mr. D. C. Ghose. I was not inclined to speak on these resolutions but to give a silent vote against the proposal to spend two or three lakhs for the salaries of members of this Council.

It is a contagion that has caught me and the contagion has been specially catching from Mr. D. C. Ghose. Well, we have heard—at least I have read and many of my friends have heard—of an expression called "retaliatory tariff." My friend's speech I took it to be a retaliatory speech. The torrents of eloquence, the arguments about the "poverty stricken tax-payers," "bankrupt exchequer," and to borrow his felicitous language, "all-pervading bankruptcy"—these fine expressions were indulged in at the time when the question of the reduction of Ministers' salaries was brought forward and have been borrowed in the present instance and I think that it is quite fitting that my friend has been correctly described as the great whip against the proposals for reduction of the Ministers' salaries. He has done such eminent service in that direction and he has been so amply rewarded. Now he has seized this opportunity of making a retaliatory speech to show that the arguments that you, Gentlemen, used on that occasion will apply to you if you vote on your own salaries, and, therefore, he has returned those arguments in his own inimitable way. My friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has correctly described that some of the members get by heart their speeches, perhaps at the sacrifice of their midnight sleep and rehearse in their own minds the speech to be delivered the next day in the Council. But my friend Mr. D. C. Ghose is a practised speaker although he might have had a rehearsal last night in order to seize this admirable opportunity of making a retaliatory speech to the members of this Council. Well, I congratulate him. He has got an occasion and he has seized that occasion and has asked you and asked all of us to submit to his "acid test," again to quote his own inimitable expression. We are all prepared to submit to this "acid test" and that test is that we are not willing to take the remuneration even if the House is willing to force it upon us by accepting the resolution of Mr. Campbell Forrester, for the payment of Rs. 250 a month. Perhaps if it had been Rs. 2,000 it might have been tempting to some of us as it has evidently been to Mr. D. C. Ghose but Rs. 250 is too trifling a sum for any one to be snared by it.

There is another point and that is this. Much has been said about the appropriation of the double first class fare by my friend Dr. Moitra. He has stated, I am told—I was not here—something about corrupt practices but we should not forget the inconveniences the mufassal members put up with and the sacrifices they make. We should not forget that there are amongst the members of this Council, struggling lawyers, struggling doctors, struggling traders——

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: And struggling Rai Bahadurs.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: The Rai Bahadur is always struggling with you. They make great sacrifices in coming over to Calcutta. Therefore we ought, instead of grudging them, to admire their self-sacrifice and their public spirit.

If my memory serves me right, in the olden days, the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council who hailed from the mufassal—not the Calcutta member—used to get Rs. 5,000 per annum. The non-official members of the Viceroy's Council who hailed from the mufassal and went to Simla got Rs. 10,000 per annum. Not only that, they had also the pleasure, the honour and the dignity—call it whatever you like—of a red-coated *chaprassi*. The members of the old Bengal Legislative Council had the services of blue-coated *chaprassis*. These things have now been abolished. These are things of the past. But still, mark the public spirit of my countrymen who have not even the one-hundredth part of the means or the affluence of Mr. D. C. Ghose who drives in his Rolls Royce Car, the members hailing from distant places like Chittagong and Noakhali spending here about four months in a year, though not consecutively, but come here at considerable sacrifice to attend to the business of this Council and to discharge their self-imposed public duty. Is this not patriotism which deserves the commendation of not only the members of the House but of the public at large? Therefore, I do not think that we should go back upon the system of payment that is at present in vogue. I do not think that anybody has grown richer by it. It is said that if they travel in second class, why should they be paid double first class. To that my answer is this. For three years, if a certain gentleman, say, a poor trader, or pleader or tiller of the soil who is a member of this Council, accustomed to travel according to his means, third class, inter class, or second class, is to travel by first class, how small will he look when, after the tenure of his office is over, he has to travel again in third, inter or second class? It may be said, why not return the money? That is so. Why do you not have a resolution passed so that the highest officers in the land, the highest Ministers in the land, who get such magnificent salaries, should also return the money? They draw double first class fare. It is not every pie that is spent in travelling. Why do you not call for an account as to the fare of their servants, their feeding expenses, gharry hire, etc.? You do not do that. Therefore, I think that it is rather going too far to support the proposition of Mr. A. C. Dutt. I think that the present system which is in vogue should be continued and that no attempt should be made to reduce it.

As regards the resolution of Mr. Campbell Forrester, it may some day happen that because democratic institutions have now been introduced in our country, some ten years hence there may be a larger number of representatives of artisan class, labouring class, tillers of the soil, etc., and then they may require some compensation for the losses that they will have to suffer just as the Labour party were able to get the Parliament to vote for salaries to its members. Well, though that may come hereafter, I do not think that at the present time, having regard to our financial strigency, having regard to the urgent demand on all sides which we are unable to meet, we should commit ourselves to this resolution. I have nothing more to say. All that I want to

say is this, that I am glad that we have had an opportunity of listening to the inspiring speech of Mr. D. C. Ghose.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The question before us is one of great difficulty. To the unthinking proud man in brief authority obtained by supporting Rs. 4 lakhs a year in salaries, the question is clear as day-light. Any additional small payment to poor members of the Council may be an impediment in the way of large salaries of Ministers and other great men with whom lie all the patronage. To the humbler members of the Council the decision of this matter is a difficult matter. When we find in all the democracies of the world, members of Parliament are paid, we are staggered. Self-sacrifice is a noble virtue, but it sometimes is not conducive to the public good. That is a good and sure foundation of a common-wealth which is placed on the rock of enlightened self-interest. Every servant of the State must live. If the Council is to be representative of the poor people of this country, the members will not be zamindars and wealthy men, but men who have to support themselves and their families by the sweat of their brow. If men in comfortable positions declare that others should sacrifice their families for the country, one cannot but feel amused. Therefore, I must agree with Mr. Forrester that if you want to have democracy in India you must pay the members. If only the raiyats were elected to this Council as representing raiyats and this Council were a truly democratic body, all this noble talk about self-sacrifice would be a matter of laughter. But the question is—Is India fit to be a democracy? Excepting the few favoured constituencies for zamindars, merchants and graduates, none but raiyats ought to be elected to this Council. But is that a fact? Because that is not the fact we are discussing the question. We are not yet a democracy. The Council will in the next twenty years be democratic and Bengali and Urdu and not English will be spoken here and our Ministers will not have to address Bengali-speaking members in ungrammatical Bengali interspersed with English. Even Sanskritic Bengali will be out of date. But to-day we are not that Council. This Council composed of Maharajas, Rajas, Rai Bahadurs, wealthy zamindars, lawyers, merchants, professors and the like, is surely aristocratic and not democratic. That was the state of things in England also. It was the Barons of England who forced King John to sign the charter at Runnymede. Later when the franchise was extended, it was the wealthy men who got themselves elected by the votes of their tenants. Then there was no payment for members. It was *infra dig* for a member to be paid. But as soon as England became a true democracy the members had to be paid. That is the story in all countries. To this Council, as constituted at present, the offer of a salary is an insult. We cannot take it. Our successors will surely take it and do so without impropriety. But we can not take it. One word more. I find Maharajas, Rajas, Kumars

all big zamindars and professors, who have been living in Calcutta before and after their election, have been taking Rs. 10 a day and also travelling expenses for going to their estate in the districts which they are supposed to represent. Again, many truly patriotic gentlemen have taken above Rs. 3,000 as travelling and boarding expenses. These gentlemen and opulent and flourishing residents of Calcutta have been the loudest in their preaching of self-sacrifice. But it is the middle class gentlemen, mostly Muhammadans, who have no places of residence at Calcutta and who have to leave their professions and callings, which maintain their families, they are the real sufferers. I deeply sympathise with them. They are the democratic element in this Council. I can only tell them, your day will surely come. Now you are in the minority and you must imitate us, prosperous men, in making money as we do out of the State. You day will surely come when the Ministers will be recruited from your ranks and the salaries will be at once reduced to reasonable limits, for these two things—reduction of the salaries of the high placed and paying small salaries to the humble members—go together. We, who are not democrats, are the majority here. We shall certainly throw out the proposal of a salary which is derogatory to our honour, but I do hope as true aristocrats the affluent members, who are now making money out of the State, should cease from any practice which is not honourable to them.

Babu TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: May I rise to a point of order? Am I not entitled to a right of reply?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: When the question has been put, you are not entitled to a reply.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: There are so many things I should like to reply to.

The motion that the question be now put was put and lost and the discussion continued.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Having regard to the fact that considerable heat has been generated in connection with this controversy, I do not desire that it should be prolonged. Let me tell this House, as briefly as I can, that I oppose the resolutions both of my friend Mr. Dutt as well as that of Mr. Campbell Forrester. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has clearly explained to this House that the object of providing travelling allowance is to cover the cost of actual travelling. The practice has always been to allow double first class to mufassal members. I see no reason why a departure should be made from the old practice at the present moment. If I may say so, my friends Mr. Dutt and Mr. Campbell Forrester have thrown a veritable apple of

discord in this Council. Recriminations have been indulged in in this House which is very unfortunate from all points of view and I appeal to my friends Mr. Dutt as well as Mr. Campbell Forrester to withdraw both of their resolutions. Having regard to the fact that a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed, it would be their business to go into the whole question and to suggest in what directions retrenchment can be effected. Till then we ought to suspend our judgment. I hope that my friend Mr. Campbell Forrester will not press his resolution. He has placed the Calcutta members in a somewhat embarrassing position. Some of the mufassal members have attributed motives to the Calcutta members in the course of this debate merely because of the circumstance that my friend Mr. Campbell Forrester happens to belong to Calcutta.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope that you will be very brief.

Mr. TARIT BHUSHAN ROY: Very well, Sir. Therefore, I am bound to conclude my observations with the hope that my friends will put an end to this debate by withdrawing their resolutions.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: At the fag-end of the day, I do not wish to speak, but only ask that the question be now put. But if you allow the debate to go on, I claim the right to speak.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You may go on, but I hope you will be brief.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I rise to oppose all the resolutions and motions regarding travelling allowance to members. So far as I remember, Mr. Dutt asked us to support his resolution on the ground of retrenchment and economy. Surely we have been trying for retrenchment and economy since the very beginning of this Council, and this principle has been accepted in several resolutions and motions for retrenchment brought forward, the first and foremost being in connection with the Ministers' salaries. It is very curious that this very Council that refused to reduce the heavy salaries of the Ministers —a sum of Rs. 64,000—how can they now agree to reduce a single fare of the mufassal members? Is it not ridiculous, is it not absurd?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: These observations have been made by other members; you need not repeat them.

Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Then I have nothing more to say.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am surprised to learn that two first class fares are drawn by each of the mufassal members of this Council, and that 15 members have charged more than Rs. 3,000 for allowances during the last financial year. I am strongly of opinion

that they should not charge more than the actual expenses incurred, and, therefore, I think it would suffice if they charged one first class fare only, as suggested by Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, and I therefore strongly support his resolution. It has been stated by Mr. Forrester that the members of the House of Commons charge a fee of £400 per annum, but this system has been introduced only in 1911 at the instance of the Labour party and they attend not less than 170 days in the year.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: These observations have already been made; you need not repeat them.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I may also be allowed to say that the Hon'ble Members of the House of Lords of the British Parliament do not charge any fees. But I beg to draw attention to the fact that before the Reforms Scheme was introduced, *viz.*, in 1919-20, the total amount of the allowances drawn was Rs. 1,23,000, but during the last official year it went up to Rs. 3,47,000. At this stage would we be justified in increasing the amount by Rs. 2 lakhs?

The next question is whether this matter should be referred to a committee. We have freely discussed this question and it is quite unnecessary to refer it to a committee. If it should be referred to a committee at all, it should go before the Retrenchment Committee already appointed by the Government.

My object in supporting the resolution of Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt is to set an example to the officers of the Government. The members of the Provincial Executive Service charge two first class railway fares when travelling; their salaries have already been materially increased by the Government, and they make it a source of profit; therefore, I think we should try our best to reduce these charges, but we cannot do that unless and until we do it ourselves, and thus set an example to them.

When we offered our services to our constituencies, we assured them that we would try our best to provide for sanitation, education and the development of industries. If in this way we increase the charges, it would be nothing but a breach of trust on our part.

I would draw your attention to another point. It has been said that the members of the Calcutta Corporation draw fees. I may be allowed to say that it is only the members of the General Committee and the sub-committees of that committee that draw fees, but they cannot charge if they do not attend the meetings from the beginning to the end; members of other committees do not charge fees; members of the committees of the Corporation do not charge any fees, and it is on the suggestion of this Corporation that it has been embodied in the proposed Municipal Bill, now under consideration, that no fees will be charged at all. If the commissioners of mufassal municipalities and

members of the district boards can serve their country without charging any fees, would we be justified in charging double first class fares even if we travel in second class compartments?

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I shall be extremely short in my reply. In the first place I beg to thank the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson for his very nice speech on the resolution which I proposed. I do earnestly hope also that in this matter, voting will be restricted to the non-official members. This is purely a non-official matter and, therefore, the voting should be left to the non-official members.

There is a resolution to the effect that the matter should be referred to a committee. Now let me ask every single non-official member to vote against this. If you want to vote against me, do so by all means, but do not shelve the matter. Have the boldness to tell me that my resolution is absurd, but do not shelve it by sending it to a committee. What can a committee possibly do in a matter of this kind? The non-official members of this Council are the best judges as to whether my proposal is reasonable. Let them vote according to their own conscience; that is all I ask them to do. If they feel that a double first class fare is necessary, let them vote against me; but please do not refer the matter to a committee, because that will shelve the matter indefinitely. A committee may take a year or a year and a half in coming to a decision and its report may not be available until after the next Council election. I have said all I have to say, but I would ask you to remember one fact, and that is that you are not really the proper judges; you are interested in this resolution. That is to say, if the scale of allowance is reduced, you suffer in pocket. So I shall ask you to vote according to what you think your constituencies would like you to do.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Whom are you addressing?

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I am addressing the Chair. I appeal to the members to have some regard for public opinion. Can there be any doubt that if the non-official members in a body went to their constituencies and asked their opinion, every voter would say: "Certainly cut down your expenses"? You are not the best judges in this matter; you must be guided by your constituencies, otherwise you will be failing in your duty.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: One of the opponents of this resolution stated it was a waste of time. I fear he is not aware of Parliamentary procedure. Why, the principle of payment of members was repeatedly affirmed in the House of Commons by considerable majorities before it was passed there and as I am certain it will eventually be passed here. My resolution is perhaps premature—a few

years too soon? Who dare state it is a waste of time when you consider the amount of interest that has been taken in it and the keenness with which the debate has been carried on? It is doing good as propaganda work. We are educating the country as to what is bound to come sooner or later, the day when the members of this House will be paid and thus bringing this country into line with all other civilised countries.

In reply to some of the statements made by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson. He declared it was a resolution that the House itself should decide and almost in the same breath he stated that it would be obviously unsuitable for the Government to accept any one of these resolutions. This is somewhat paradoxical, is it not? The truism that no one should travel second class and charge first class fares is one that is indisputable and is an argument in favour of my resolution. If you accept that, then you can travel in whatever class you like with a free conscience. It has also been stated that the payment of members lowered the moral authority of a legislative body outside. Now listen to what the highest authority in this land of India at the present time has said—the Viceroy Lord Reading—in the House of Commons on the 14th August, 1911:—

I will deal with the proposition which was put forward that payment for this service will tend to degrade us and lower the position of the House of Commons in the eyes of the country. I utterly fail to understand that point; all services which are rendered, except in a very few instances, are services for which payment is accepted, and in which payment honours the recipient as well as the person who pays. I will only instance what happens, for example, with a minister of religion. Do politics stand so eminently above every other in which human beings are engaged that it is only in respect of these services that there is to be no payment, and that payment will degrade or lower the person who receives it in the estimation of those whom he represents? I would ask hon'ble members to consider for a moment. Does any one suggest that the payment to a minister of religion has anything like that effect upon him? I will not instance all the various classes which my right hon'ble friend the Chancellor referred to when he made his speech on Thursday. I only add the case which seems to me to be answerable. If it does not degrade the minister of religion to receive payment for his services, why should it degrade a member of Parliament to receive payment for the services which he renders?

He further said:—

I think few persons could be found to defend the purity of public life as compared with what had been the state of things before 1677. It is a most curious thing and well worthy of reflection that when payment was made, parliamentary life was purer than it was after the abolition.

That is the statement of the Viceroy in the House of Commons in which he advocates the payment of members because it meant the purity of the House.

Then the Hon'ble Member complains of the poor attendance of this House. Payment to members will improve this position. If a member only turns up a few days, you can rest assured that his political

career will soon be cut short by his constituents. I would be prepared to put the members on their honour; to cut them for non-attendance would be undignified; their constituents would keep them up to the mark—" duty determines destiny."

India is continually referred to as a poor country. It is not a poor country. What is required is a better system for collection of income-tax and adjustment of its revenue.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri is opposed to this resolution. He says that we are not justified in making the Council a source of income. We all agree with him, and I hope that members will practise what they preach, for I find against the name of one of the gentlemen who have opposed my motion that he had drawn Rs. 3,393-13-6, and I am sorry to say that our Bengali friend on the left, who has bitterly opposed this measure, has drawn Rs. 2,320-6-6, and I would ask him if he always travels first class. Why, Sir, there are only one or two members who have opposed this resolution and who are not drawing allowances, and I find some who have drawn over Rs. 4,000 a year.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble Member saying there is not one member who has drawn Rs. 4,000?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: He says there are some who have drawn over Rs. 4,000. (A voice: "Can you mention their names?")

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I can give names, but I do not think it desirable to wash dirty linen in public. I have the names here and they can be seen by any one who wants to see them. Some members pointed to the necessity of practising economy by giving their services free of charge to the motherland and who have pleaded with tears in their voices for the motherland—the poor motherland, which was poverty-stricken and wanted all the benefits they could give it and yet I find sixteen have drawn from the poor motherland over Rs. 3,000, and at least four over Rs. 4,000. Journeys have been taken at week-ends and one can be forgiven if they assume it has been done for the sake of securing travelling allowances, as we find instances where the travellers have only three hours at their destination before starting on their return journey.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Did all the members refer to the necessity of practising economy?

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Nearly all, with the exception of one or two.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I did not.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Then you come under the category of the one or two. There is much more could be said, but this discussion has taken up a lot of the time of the House. Therefore,

I will refrain from saying more but certain I am that the discussion has done good and I prophesy more will be heard of it in the near future.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta evidently thinks there is something in the cohesive power of public plunder, but let us hope, as the poet says, that "morning cool reflection brings," and the only straightforward policy is to vote for my resolution. The heart of the statesman must be his head.

The arguments used by Professor S. C. Mukherji have all been used in the House of Commons and are answered from the fact that the House of Commons stands on a better and higher intellectual level to-day than ever, and the payment of members does not appreciably increase taxes. All this talk of increase of taxes and looking after the poor motherland is nothing but vote-catching. These are all catch-phrases to set out before our constituents; it is all cant and hypocrisy. I think personally that it will not be a further expenditure but a saving, for you have to remember that most of the European members are on agreements that do not permit them taking salaries elsewhere. If that is so, there would be a saving to this Council. The great cry is that the time is not opportune, and that is the main opposition to my resolution. Few people seem to have understood my resolution; my resolution is to advocate the principle of payment to members of this Council. You must bring the matter repeatedly before your constituents. If you advocate the principle of payment of members, then you must advocate the principle of payment of all members and Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers also, and you will have to bring in a Bill for payment to them all of fees. The question is that you must educate the people up to this idea. The time is not yet; I know I am talking about five years before the present time, but the time has got to come. The principle can be brought up again next year, and again the following year, and I am sure it will finally be accepted in the Council as has been done in the House of Commons.

There is a proposal to send this resolution to a committee; it has been said that there is a Retrenchment Committee sitting shortly, and they will be all for economy, so the time is not opportune to ask for payment for the members of this House. I want you to understand that if you will not favour payment to the members of this House, you would at least advocate the principle of payment——

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I rise to a point of order. Do I understand that the member is withdrawing the latter part of his resolution?

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: With the permission of the Council I will withdraw the latter part of my resolution. My main

object is that the country might be educated to the principle; the time is not ripe for these matters to be brought before it at present. I have very much more to say, but I will take up very much more of our time; therefore, I will leave the matter to the discretion of the Council, and I hope it will see the absolute fairness and necessity of this progressive measure.

The following motion was then put:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that one first class fare be allowed as travelling allowance to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council in future."

The motion being put a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinas Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutt, Mr Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Kishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kisher.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

The Ayes being 20 and the Noes 48, the motion was lost.

The following amendments were then put and lost:—

Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM to move, by way of amendment, that in Motion No. 2, for the words and figures "Rs. 3,000 a year in lieu of travelling and halting allowances" the words and figures "Rs. 2,400 a year with one first class travelling fare for attending meetings, but without any residential allowances," be substituted.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR to move, by way of amendment, that Motion of No. 2 do take the following form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the question of payment of fixed salary and the present system of payment of travelling allowance and residential allowance be referred to a committee consisting of two non-official members who have their usual place of residence in Calcutta, two other non-official meembers and one official member with instructions to inquire into the system and recommend such changes therein as will be acceptable to all the members with due regard to economy and that the said committee be requested to submit its report before the next sitting of the Council in August."

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER then asked permission to amend his resolution by omitting the words "and to fix that salary at Rs. 3,000 a year in lieu of travelling and halting allowances."

The Council rejected the proposal.

The following motion was then put and lost:—

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: "This Council recommends to the Government to accept the principle of payment of a salary to each member of the Council as adopted in every country having Parliamentary or Representative institutions, and to fix that salary at Rs. 3,000 a year in lieu of travelling and halting allowances."

The following motion being consequential failed:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of official and non-official members be formed to consider and report whether the present rate of travelling allowance and residential allowance to the members should remain as they are or any modification should be made with any fixed pay."

Retrenchment Committee.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I beg to move that "this Council recommends to the Government that a committee with a non-official majority (the non-officials to be elected by the system of the single transferable vote) be appointed to investigate and report as to what retrenchment can be effected in the administration of the Government of Bengal."

I regret I am unable to see my way to withdraw the resolution standing in my name. This resolution asks primarily for the association of non-official members in any committee that may be appointed to consider retrenchments in the administration of the Government of Bengal. I must say that we are grateful to the present Government under the presidency of His Excellency the Earl of Lytton that after such a long time it has thought fit to appoint a committee to take an interest, an active though it may not be an effective interest in what retrenchments can be effected in the administration, but at the same time we feel that Government has done so deliberately in order to anticipate our resolutions for a committee with a non-official majority. I take it that Government must have been aware that our speeches, our demands for retrenchment would have culminated in the demand for a retrenchment committee. I take it that Government must have been aware that we, the non-official members of the Council, have got more confidence in the members whom we elect than those in whose appointment we have no hand whatsoever. I take it that Government is aware of the tendency of this Council for having a non-official majority on any committee that may be appointed. I therefore do not think I am wrong in saying that Government has anticipated us deliberately by appointing a committee before the meeting of the Council, for if it had not been so, Government could easily have waited for a fortnight or three weeks more to consider our deliberate opinion on this matter and ascertain what this Council considered to be the most effective committee and the most effective avenues of retrenchment. I should not be justified at this stage in stating that we have no confidence in the present committee. May that day never dawn when it may be brought into conflict with the Council and when we shall have to state that its deliberations are not at all in consonance with the views which have been expressed here and the views which have been expressed throughout the country in the matter of retrenchment. I hope that the Council will not be confronted with a laudatory report to the effect that it is wonderful indeed how this colossal administration could have been effectively carried on with such little expenditure of money. I trust that, instead of cutting down expenditure, we may not be met with a recommendation that for the sake of further efficiency, more expenditure must be incurred. I know that it is not in the power of the present Retrenchment Committee to make such a recommendation but it can be hinted at in their report, that, say, for the sake of the efficient maintenance of law and order in the province, more policemen may be appointed. My submission to the Government is that although it has anticipated us in appointing this committee, it should take the considered opinion of the Council on this matter and appoint more non-official members of the Council to serve on this committee; firstly, because the Council has got more confidence in its own members whom it elects, and secondly, because such a splendid opportunity should not be allowed to pass by

means of which the non-official members of the Council may be able to get an intimate insight into the administration of the province, which may ultimately be of infinite benefit to the country and to the Council in the future.

I therefore beg to move the resolution which stands in my name.

Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN being absent, the following resolution standing in his name was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a Retrenchment Committee (with a majority of non-official Indian members) be appointed to examine all details of Government expenditure in this province and to suggest ways and means for the purpose of reducing the same, both immediately and in future."

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I beg to withdraw the following resolution standing in my name:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed to consider as to how the expenditure of the Government of Bengal may be reduced and to submit their report thereon."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I have your permission to withdraw the following resolution and to support the resolution which has been moved by Mr. Suhrawardy?

"This Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials, with a non-official majority be appointed to inquire into the cost of the administration of Bengal and report on the possibility of effecting economy therein."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You may speak to the motion of Mr. Suhrawardy.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: At first sight, it would seem unnecessary to have to move or support a resolution asking for a Retrenchment Committee, when Government have already appointed one of its own. But, Sir, both the personnel of the committee and its scope of inquiry as has been outlined in this Council the other day, have shattered any delusion that many of us might have in the matter.

As regards the personnel, I know it is always very delicate to enter into personalities; but, Sir, I do not know how this committee can be regarded as an expert committee. Businessmen are very useful in their own sphere, and I daresay that the expert businessmen who has kindly consented to preside over the deliberations of this Retrenchment Committee will be able to curtail the waste of the Public Works Department, but what can businessmen do in suggesting change of policy of the Government? Unless the policy of the Government is changed considerably in some matters, a cut here and a cut there, a tinkering with this or that item of expenditure will not serve much useful purpose.

What weighty suggestion can be made by businessmen as to the possibility of doing away with Commissioners, or as to the amalgamation of posts like the Inspector-General of Prisons and Inspector-General of Hospitals, or of posts like those of the Commissioner of Excise and the Inspector-General of Registration, and a host of other posts and departments? What authoritative voice can businessmen command in suggesting that the distinction between the Imperial and Provincial services may be abolished as a sure means of effecting retrenchment? I should have thought that the inclusion of men like Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu or of experts like Mr. K. L. Datta or of Councillor like our Deputy-President or an official like Sir Abd-ur-Rahim would have carried greater confidence in the minds of the people. I think the safest plan would have been to leave the matter of selection of non-official members in the hands of the Council. The final responsibility must rest with the Council, who, after all, have to find the money. As it is, the responsibility now rests with the Government, and the Council cannot be satisfied with the selection.

As regards the scope of inquiry, I do not know what detailed reference has been made to the committee. Will they be able to take up the question of the Imperial Services and make suggestions to the Government for the consideration of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State? Will they be able to consider that Bengal cannot afford to keep a costly Imperial Service for carrying on the administration of this province? I know that the Imperial Services have lately been fortunate enough to be placed on a high pedestal of superiority by an admiring Government, but will it be in the power of the committee to consider whether Bengal can afford to pay for this costly luxury? When I remember that the officials of the higher Civil Service in Japan get only Rs. 5,500 to Rs. 6,300 a year, when I remember that a Japanese District Court Judge gets a maximum salary of Rs. 5,500 a year, and that the highest amount paid to an appellate court judge in Japan is only Rs. 7,500 a year, when I remember that an official equal in rank to the Inspector-General of Police in Japan gets only Rs. 7,500 a year, whereas in Bengal he gets nearly three times as much, when I remember that in the rich United States of America, there are only three officials which carry a salary of more than Rs. 24,000 a year, and that all the other salaries range from Rs. 6,300 to Rs. 24,000 a year, I think that the question of the standard of the highest salary that Bengal can afford to pay to its administrators and public servants, should surely form a part of the scope of that inquiry.

It is well-known that many Provincial Service men have done admirable and efficient work in the posts generally reserved for the higher service men, and it is an open secret that weighty pressure has been brought to bear upon the Provincial, Imperial and Home Governments not to allow non-Imperial service men to take up Imperial Service posts, even if Provincial Service men have been able

to efficiently discharge these duties. Will this Retrenchment Committee have the power to take up this question and make suggestions for reference to the Home authorities? Will it be open to this committee to discuss the salutary principle that the standard of salary in this country must be fixed according to the standard of living in Bengal, and not according to the standard of living in the richest country in the world, nor according to the needs of the people who have to serve 7,000 miles away from their home, but rather according to the paying capacity of the taxpayers of Bengal?

If these questions form part of the inquiry, I congratulate the Government of Bengal, and I have some hopes that real economy will be effected, if not, I am afraid that the Retrenchment Committee may not serve much useful purpose, and should not have been appointed at all.

We do not wish to combine the irreconciliable objects of reduced taxation and the expenditure of public money in the direction of our choice. Our eternal complaint has been that the cost of administration takes the lion's share of the public funds, leaving very little for nation-building purposes. We objected to the recent taxation, because the proceeds were meant to meet the ordinary costs of the administration. Unless the Retrenchment Committee can effect considerable reduction in the cost of administration, we cannot be satisfied with the doubtful utility of a Retrenchment Committee in popularising the information on which the executive decides on what the expenditure of the country should be. If that be the function of Retrenchment Committees, that is, to popularise the information on which the Government bases its futile expenditure, it is a futile purpose, especially in a country like Bengal, where the executive is not responsible to the legislature. If the executive had really been responsible to the legislature, as in other countries, then the executive would have worked with the legislature, and there might have been some meaning in that sort of popularising; but when the executive can safely ride rough-shod over the suggestions of the legislature, this popularising aspect of the Retrenchment Committee means nothing but a whitewash and, as such, cannot appeal to the dying taxpayers of this province.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I do not want to detain the House very long at the fag-end of the day. The Council has been given certain powers by the Government. The Council is asked to vote for expenditure necessary for the administration of the Government of the country. When we are called upon to vote for expenditure, we have the right to determine how the money should be spent. We have to face the people. We had to explain to them why the Council voted for the new taxation Bills and we shall have to explain to them how the money that has been raised from them is being spent. In view of these facts, the Council has the right to look into every detail of expenditure. It

is in the fitness of time that Mr. Suhrawardy has moved this resolution. Since the last year various members of this Council have been suggesting reduction in the present scale of expenditure. I think, when a committee for retrenchment was formed, it would have been advisable on the part of Government to have taken the views of the Council into consideration.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to support the resolution of Mr. Suhrawardy.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I rise to accord my support generally to the proposal for the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee. The Government have already appointed a committee for this purpose, generally in accord with what has been set forth in the resolution now before the Council. I, therefore, take it that so far as the principle is concerned, Government accept it but there may be some discussion as to matters of detail only. In spite, however, of the assured victory of this resolution, I think it my duty to say a few words from the point of view of the Muhammadan community of Bengal. I do not wish to say that the principle of communal representation should be pushed so far as to justify us in demanding that even in the matter of appointment of committees, at least one Muhammadan member must serve on them, but a committee of this character is of a somewhat exceptional character. It will be evident that the items of expenditure in the budget are more or less inter-dependent, and retrenchment in one direction may mean the swelling up of expenditure in another. Again, retrenchment in any particular department may mean real hardship on a particular community. Suppose that in a certain department it is proposed that the post of duftry and the durwan are to be abolished; that would at once mean that 99 per cent. of the Muhammadan employees would be turned out, because unfortunately, the only posts that Muhammadans hold in any office is that of the duftry and the durwan. That is, however, only by way of illustration, but I think that on the Retrenchment Committee a representative from the Muhammadan members of this Council should have been taken in order to ascertain the views of the community with regard to this question. The reason why no Muhammadan was taken on the committee is perhaps not hard to find. It is either because Government thought that there was no such encumbrance in the country as the Muhammadan community, or that no member of the community was fit to serve on the committee. I do not think that the Government really ignored the community altogether. The real reason, therefore, seems to me that in the opinion of those who selected the committee, the Muhammadan community were unable, by reason to their want of ability, experience or otherwise, to render any useful service to the deliberations of the committee.

Now, Sir, Government is in a financially embarrassed condition and it is well-known that Muhammadans generally are financially embarrassed, so the Government should have thought that they were in a better

position to advise them that those who were favoured by fortune. There is an expression in Bengali called *Lakshmi chhara*, which is applied to persons who are deserted by fortune. The Muhammadans generally are *Lakshmi chharas*, perhaps because they do not worship the goddess of Luck or Fortune, Lakshmi, but in any way they are generally *Lakshmi chharas;* but, however, *Lakshmi chharas* the Muhammadans may be, the Government of Bengal at the present time is a greater *Lakshmi chhara;* but, however, *Lakshmi chharas* the Muhammadans in this Presidency. We may be financially embarassed, but we live in hope; there is hope for many of us that those of us who are poor to-day, will be rich one day; we hope that although to-day we are struggling with fortune, we will get over our financial difficulties to-morrow. There is hope for many, who may be down on their luck to-day, that they will once again be blessed with good fortune, but alas! for the Government of Bengal, bankruptcy and insolvency are writ large over the finances of this great Presidency. The Government are the worst *Lakshmi chharas* in the Presidency. The best possible thing that Government could have done was to have at least one Muhammadan member on the Retrenchment Committee.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I rise to a point of order? The word *Lakshmi chhara* has got another meaning and it is likely that it may be taken in that sense.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I have explained the meaning of the word *Lakshmi chhara* and I believe I am sticking to that definition which is "one deserted by fortune." I hope the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur will kindly remember the meaning of the expression in which I have used it. The Government of Bengal should also remember that there is such a community as the Muhammadan community who have got their own views in these important matters and who have a right to be represented on these committees.

With these words, Sir, I accord my support generally to the proposal for the appointment of a Retrenchment Committe.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali in support of his resolution. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

Our expenditure side is growing day by day notwithstanding the every-day talk of retrenchment. We find the appointment of new officers and fresh items of expenditure almost daily. Such provisions are in the budget before the House though we have several motions against them we can scarcely hope to succeed against the majority of votes Government are enlisting in their favour. Japan is a prosperous country in all respects but the pay of almost all high officials there is not

above Rs. 600 a month. The high officials of this poor country get much more and the Deputy Collectors and Munsifs are also getting more and raising their grades every now and then and life-blood of the poor are being sucked. No retrenchment is possible unless the rate of pay and the number of officials are reduced, and moreover to make it a success a class of people, disinterested and possessing independent mind, must come forward to pilot the scheme. We shall by no means achieve our object through officials who are directly Government servants receiving favours and craving for more. Examples of carrying coal to Newcastle are very often seen in these days. There are several objections to give the poor ministerial officers a few rupees more but none appear in the case of higher officers who are already on the higher graded scale. The Persian poet said: *Kazar zur kashed zur jahan ganj ganj*, which means "wealth begets wealth." This maxim has been adopted in increasing the pay of those who are already overpaid. No member of this House can be called a true representative of the tenants who, unable through want of wisdom and ignorance of what the reforms meant, have recorded their votes for undesirables who do not look after their welfare. Notwithstanding what has happened some good may come out if a Retrenchment Committee consisting of non-officials be appointed. I have sent in an amendment to this effect but as the present motion is a very reasonable one, I have no hesitation in supporting it. The people of the country will entertain a certain amount of suspicion as regards the committee formed. Government may argue that members are all businessmen or advance other arguments in its behalf. But the committee is for the benefit of the people and Government in appointing the same should have every regard for the wishes of the people. Government are bound to call the members of this House as the representative of the people and should not as such disregard their opinions. My esteemed friend Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has expressed regret that the committee has not in it any Muhammadan element. No one can deny that it is a very reasonable demand. Government may say many things in their support, but it is unquestionably desirable that every department should contain men of all the different classes more or less, unless of course, there be a dearth of qualified men in any particular classes. The absence of any Muhammadan on the committee will lead people to think that either the community cannot supply a suitable man or that the Government have failed to look at things with an impartial eye. We are not non-co-operators but have come here to co-operate fully with the Government. If for that reason I have said what I believe to be ture, and whether any heed is to be paid to my words it is for the Government to decide.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The present resolution is a recommendation of the Government that a committee with

a non-official majority be appointed to investigate as to retrenchment. The people are not satisfied with the formation of the committee and, consequently, it is necessary for us, the members of the Council, to bring to the notice of Government that there ought to have been a non-official majority in the committee. That is an item of complaint and, on behalf of the people, I feel it my duty to let the Government know through the Council that there ought to have been a non-official majority. The principal reason is that many Government officers are interested in the matter, and consequently those who are to inquire into and investigate the various subjects of retrenchment should not be considered as persons interested in the matter. Consequently, it is an item of serious consideration whether the Council should have been consulted in the formation of the committee. If the Council had been consulted, I am almost sure the Council would have recommended a non-official majority. Upon the labour of this committee will depend the prosperity of the country. We have from time to time complained to the Council the disadvantages to which we have been subjected. You know, Sir, on various occasions when the taxation Bills were going to be passed, objections were raised on account of the high cost of living and costly administration and that was the subject-matter of complaint ever since the inauguration of the new Council. If the expenditure had been curtailed, I am almost certain that the taxation Bills would have no occasion to be passed. Government came forward to the Council to make up the deficiency, and increase of the revenue was considered the standard or passing of the Bills. The Bills have been passed and Government now comes forward to appoint a committee for the purpose of inquiring into the matter which would have been the subject of inquiry previous to that. I have got nothing to speak as to the personnel of the committee appointed, but I hope and trust that Government would be in a position to appoint some non-officials in addition who would be able to grapple with the very important subject the results of which are to be considered by every man. These are the observations which I make to the Council and I support the resolution whole-heartedly.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER CHOSE Bahadur: It is with very great regret that I have to find fault with the action of the Government and to support my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy. The Government have appointed a committee and it is very ungracious on our part to say a word against it, but the interests of the public require that the truth should be said. The committee, as at present constituted, is a very good one so far as commercial matters are concerned. But none of these gentlemen has got any experience whatsoever of the administration of this country. I simply wonder how this committee was appointed. No man, no Indian gentleman connected with the administration is in it. No gentleman connected with the University or the High Court which requires very urgent retrenchment has been

appointed to it. My friend Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, who has been taking so great an interest in the High Court and the University might have been appointed as also Babu Jatindra Nath Basu. These are matters which cannot be ignored because of the gracious act in appointing a committee of retrenchment. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that this committee would be ineffective and impotent. His Excellency the Governor is quite new to the country and he does not know which departments require the pruning knife. He has given great men- successful men—of the mercantile world and he thought they were good enough for anything. They are surely good enough for much, but they are not good enough for everything especially for the departments over which they have to apply the pruning knife. I say, with extreme regret, that we have to find fault with this gracious act of His Excellency the Governor.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I support the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy. I am aware that a committee has been appointed by Government, but I do not know whether the committee which was appointed previously to look into the affairs of the Police Department has been superseded altogether by this. We had been asking for a Retrenchment Committee and some time ago it was decided that all standing committees should report upon possible retrenchment. I do not know what was the good of that. But whatever that may be, I think the claim of this Council has been ignored in appointing the Retrenchment Committee. I think the opinion of the Council ought to be taken if there is going to be any financial retrenchment especially with reference to transferred departments. The committee has been appointed but no representative of the Council has been taken on it. Therefore, we should press upon the Government our special claims to be heard on the point. I do not know whether it is an oversight or has been deliberately done, but as the peoples' representatives having control over the budget have been ignored, we should press upon the Government the need of our representation.

With these few words, I beg to support the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: These resolutions were put in before the issue of the Government orders appointing the Retrenchment Committee, and I naturally assumed that when members saw the Government Resolution, they would withdrew their resolutions. Three of these resolutions have been withdrawn, and I am rather sorry that course was been taken because I was prepared to accept those three resolutions. Mr. Suhrawardy, however, has moved his resolution and I am not sorry that he has done so because it gives me an opportunity of clearing up a good deal of misunderstanding which seems to exist about the constitution and the purposes of our committee and I shall be glad to clear that up if I can.

First of all I should like to remind the Council very briefly of the previous history of retrenchment in this Council. Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik, at the very first meeting of the Council in February, 1921, moved a resolution for the appointment of a large Retrenchment Committee. I suggested to the Council that action of that kind was premature within a few weeks of the formation of this Council. But I recognised to the full on behalf of Government the right of this Council to satisfy itself regarding all the details of our expenditure, and I told the Council that, if, in connection with the budget or subsequently, they wanted any further justification for the financial provision made for any particular department, Government would be quite prepared to meet the wishes of the Council. That policy, we have steadily pursued during the last year. We appointed a committee to inquire into the possibility of retrenchment in the Police Department. That committee was appointed a year ago and it has not yet produced any report, and I am given to understand by my friends who are serving on that committee that they are not in sight of any report yet. However, I am glad to assure my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, that the appointment of Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji's committee will, in no way, prejudice the action of the committee on police retrenchment. We are only too anxious to have suggestions regarding retrenchment or rather to have the question of retrenchment thoroughly examined and to have suggestions made about retrenchment on the basis of that examination. Whether we get suggestions from the Police Committee or from Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji's committee, is a matter of indifference to us so long as suggestions are made, based on sound reasons. Then, Sir, it will be remembered that last December Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta had a motion on the paper for the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee. That motion was withdrawn when I explained to the Council that we had arranged to place each departmental budget before the Standing Committees of the different departments and to consider their recommendations in framing the budget. But, Sir, unfortunately we had no retrenchment recommendations from the Standing Committees. On the contrary most of them proposed an increase in expenditure rather than reduction. Not unnaturally, the conduct of the Standing Committees came in for some criticism in the course of the Budget debate and views were expressed by various members that there was need for the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee which would cover the whole field of the activities of Government and would look into the question from a broader point of view. I said in the course of the Budget debate that Government had in no way barred the door against retrenchment and that we would consider what could be done after the Budget was over. Then, as His Excellency told the Council the other day, coming here fresh from his experience of the Geddes Committee in England he decided to take up the matter himself. In the very first interview which I had with him two days after his arrival here, His Excellency

broached this question and asked me to take it up. We took it up and the result is the resolution appointing this committee on which comments have been made to-night.

The first objection that has been taken our committee is that it ought to have been elected by this Council. Mr. Suhrawardy was very strong on that point. I would remind him, as I believe he was the first to mention the Geddes Committee in this House, that the Geddes Committee was not elected by the House of Commons. It was appointed by the Government just in the same way as our committee has been appointed. The Geddes Committee also did not contain any of what I may call the ordinary class of politicians, that is to say, people interested and active in ordinary political controversies. It consisted entirely of business men. Our committee also will consist very largely of business men. The reason for that, Sir. I think, is perfectly obvious. What we require in a Retrenchment Committee in the first place is impartiality. We do not want a Retrenchment Committee consisting of people who have already made up their minds as to the possibility or impossibility of retrenchment. I may say, Sir, that some kind friends suggested to His Excellency that I should preside over this committee. But I respectfully asked His Excellency to excuse me on the ground that it had been my business in this Council on many occasions to defend the expenditure policy of Government and I felt that if I were appointed to the committee or asked to preside over the committee, I should be justly accused of want of impartiality. I do not use the word "partiality" in any bad sense. It is a good thing that some of us have strong convictions and express them strongly. What I mean is that for the purposes of this committee, I could not be regarded as impartial, just as Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq could not be regarded as impartial either. Mr. Dutta has given expression to-night to his views regarding the possibility of abolishing the Imperial Services. I do not share those views myself and I do not know whether the committee will decide that I am right or that Mr. Dutta is right, but I do say that Mr. Dutta by expressing these views has made himself disqualified to serve in the Retrenchment Committee.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: What about Babu Surendra Nath Mallik who wanted to abolish the posts of the Divisional Commissioners?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I must not be interrupted.

I say Mr Dutt or myself would not be very useful members of the Retrenchment Committee. We shall be quite useful as witnesses, but not as members. Mr. Fazl-ul Haq has raised the Muhammadan question. I must say that it never struck me that there was a Muhammadan aspect in the matter at all, but I think I see what Mr. Fazl-ul Haq's idea is. He wants a Muhammadan to be on the committee so as

to prevent the committee from turning out low-paid Muhammadan employees from any particular department or from any particular branch of the services. This again is evidence of want of impartiality. It will be the committee's business to find out whether any particular employee of Government is necessary or not necessary and to report accordingly, whatever the religion or the pay or the status of an officer may be, and it would be most unfortunate if members of the committee started work with the idea that it was their duty to show special favour towards any particular community.

Now, Sir, in the Chairman of the Committee, I venture to think that we have a gentleman who is admirably suited for the work the committee has to do. Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji is a business man of the highest eminence, his abilities are unquestioned and his impartiality is not open to doubt. In Mr. Rhodes, who was until lately a member of the Bengal Council and is now President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and a Member of the Legislative Assembly, we have a European business man of the highest capacity representing the European business world as Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji represents the Indian business world. In Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, we have a member of this Council who has urged insistently the necessity for retrenchment, but who has not, I think, committed himself to any particular form of retrenchment. He moved a resolution in a very able speech on one occasion asking for the allotment of more money for the transferred departments. I could not accept the resolution as it stood. But the Council was greatly impressed by his arguments and I think in the committee he will represent the point of view of a very large number of members of this Council who would like to see more money made available for the transferred department if it can be done without impairing efficiency. In Rai Abinash Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, we have a gentleman also of great business experience, and he has the further advantage of being the Chairman of the Birbhum District Board. It is inevitable that this Retrenchment Committee should go into the question of the division of expenditure between the provincial Government and local bodies, and it will be a great advantage to have on the committee a business man who happens also to be a Chairman of a District Board. Mr. Spry is the only official on the committee, and we thought it was advisable to give the committee an official to facilitate its work. Now, Sir, that is the reason why we constituted the committee as we have done. We want impartiality and we want ability. The committee does not contain any official besides Mr. Spry with administrative experience, but we felt very strongly that if we loaded the committee with a number of officials of different services and of different forms of administrative experience, we should not get the impartiality which we wanted. Official views regarding the possibility of retrenchment have been placed before this Council time and again. They come up in connection with every budget and every demand for new expenditure. The Council know all about official views. They

will, of course, be placed before the committee, and it will be for the committee to take them into consideration along with others, but we do feel that we do not want on the committee a whole series of people, who rightly or wrongly are committed to particular views, whether on the official or on the non-official side.

Now, Sir, Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta has criticised the scope of the committee's inquiry. I do not know whether he has read the resolution appointing the committee which we have worded in the widest possible manner. We have said: "The Governor in Council desires the committee to make recommendations for effecting all possible reductions in the expenditure of the local Government," and we have asked them certain questions which also give them the widest possible scope of inquiry. Then we go on to say: "It may be that the committee's inquiry will lead them to recommend changes of policy. The decision as to the action to be taken on such recommendations must rest with the local Government, but the Governor in Council does not wish to limit in any way the scope of the committee's investigation, and it will be open to them to indicate the economies which might be effected if particular policies were adopted, modified or abandoned." The particular question which Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta raises about the salaries of the various services and the possibility of substituting Provincial officers for Imperial officers will certainly be taken up by the committee. It is not, of course, within the power of the local Government to give effect to any recommendations affecting the Imperial Services, and we have indicated that in the resolution, but it will certainly be open to the committee—it is entirely within the terms of reference to them—to make recommendations on such subjects, and I have not the slightest doubt that they will do so. I may mention in this connection that Mr. Dutta gave us some figures regarding the pay of public services in various countries. Well, about a month ago when the appointment of Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji was first decided upon, he came to see me and asked if we could give him figures similar to those mentioned by Mr. Dutta this evening, and we have as a matter of fact written to the India Office at Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji's suggestion and asked them to give us complete and authoritative figures on that subject. I merely mention this in order to show the manner in which the committee are tackling the matter. In these circumstances, I think the pessimism which has been expressed about the possibilities of the work of the committee is unfounded. It will be perfectly open to the members of this Council as it is to the local Government to put up their ideas to the committee and to press them before the committee.

In these circumstances, I suggest that we leave the committee to make the best it can of its difficult job. I shall see that the proceedings of this evening are laid before the committee in due course, and I do not think they will require any further hints as to the desire of the Council regarding the lines which their investigation should take.

I am afraid, Sir, we cannot accept this resolution, because it is now too late to alter the constitution of the committee, and as I have said, we do not regard the election of members of the Council to the committee to be a very suitable procedure. Perhaps, in the circumstances, the mover will not press his resolution.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I am indeed thankful that I have the support of so many members of the Council, and I hope, too, that we shall be able to share the confidence in the committee which the Hon'ble Member has expressed. I am glad indeed that he recognises what he himself has pointed out to us some time ago that retrenchment and economy are two different things altogether. There is one remark of his, however, that I consider with a certain amout of alarm, and that is the suggestion that he has thrown out that a committee in which there are non-official members of this Council will not be an impartial committee. I am afraid that the Hon'ble Member from now is already condemning the Police Committee which is composed of a majority of non-official members, and if so, I think the best thing that the Police Committee can do will be to give place to this Retrenchment Committee and retire gracefully, rather than be humiliated by the Hon'ble Member, and possibly by other members, when their recommendations are put before this Council, on the ground that as the Police Committee is composed of non-official members, it will not be impartial.

Lastly, I was struck by the remark of the Hon'ble Member that the Geddes Committee, which I had the honour first to refer to, was a committee appointed by Government, but that was in England where the Government has the confidence of the country, and although Government may or may not accept what that committee has to say, it knows that it has the Parliament behind its back. But, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has commented with such ability on the personel of the committee and has pointed out to us the marked aptitude which the members of the committee have for impartiality, even—I hope Mr Spry will forgive me—by holding up Mr. Spry as an impartial member, I think I shall not be justified in pressing my resolution for the consideration of the Council. I beg leave, therefore, to withdraw my resolution with the hope that the recommendations of this committee may not bring it into conflict with the Council.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: May I make a personal explanation? I am sorry if I have hurt the feelings of the members of the Police Committee. Fortunately I have nothing whatever to do with the Police Committee. I was only dealing with the question of impartiality in regard to this Retrenchment Committee, and I said that as far as that committee was concerned neither certain officials nor some of the non-officials who have spoken on the subject, could be regarded as

impartial members. In regard to the Police Committee, I should have to make further inquiries before I could express any opinion in regard to its impartiality. (Laughter.)

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Improvement of Water-supply.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I beg to move that "this Council recommends to the Government that a committee, consisting of three elected representatives of this Council and two expert Engineers and three representatives of the district boards of Bengal and the mover, be formed at once to devise ways and means for the provision of an extensive system of water-supply in the province, and to suggest other necessary improvements for the increased supply of pure drinking water and water for cultivation purposes in the mufassal."

This resolution aims at doing something for the poor rate-payers of Bengal. Just a few minutes ago, some papers were circulated to the members of this Council giving, as it were, a history of water-supply in the province, and in those papers it was pointed out that various steps had been taken and last of all the Public Works cess was surrendered to the district boards, so that they might be in a fair position to devote a good portion of their revenues towards improving the water-supply in the mufassal. I daresay most of the district boards of Bengal took their cue from these instructions and they have been doing their level best for removing the water scarcity in the mufassal but notwithstanding all their endeavours, I beg to submit to this Council, the funds at their disposal are quite limited and notwithstanding their best intentions, they cannot remove the water scarcity of the province. This can very well be illustrated from the case of the Pabna District Board. Since the surrender of Public Works cess in 1913, the District Board of Pabna has been spending over Rs. 16,000 a year for water-supply alone and during the last eight years it has excavated 171 masonry wells, 61 ring wells, and 5 tanks. If we go on in this fashion, it will take 126 years for the district board to give one well to one village. That shows the absurdity of the expectation that the district board with its limited resources will be able to do away with the water scarcity in the mufassal. I am glad to note that the Government of Bengal is aware of this fact and more than once it has expressed its willingness to take up this matter. I submitted to Government a memorial after the accession of office of our Hon'ble Minister, who convened a meeting of the editors of the local papers and he tried his best to impress on them the necessity of creating a popular feeling in favour of removing the standing difficulty of water-supply in the mufassal. In his speech to the editors he pointed out that Bengal was going to be depopulated by the unusual increase of death-rate of the people over the birth-rate. He gave a very instructive table showing the death-rate as well as the birth-rate.

This table shows the unusual preponderance of death-rate over the birth-rate. This is because our villages are going to be ruined by cholera, malaria, dysentery and other fell diseases and most of the diseases can be attributed to bad drinking water. This is a year of unusual drought and we received reports from the mufassal that in village after village there was no water for drinking purposes at all, even the bullocks and other animals had to go without drinking water for some time and the people were forced to undertake a journey of four to five miles in order to have drinking water for the use of their family and themselves. Now, I need not dwell on the importance of this question, but would simply point out the real state of things obtaining in villages, because it is well-known to almost all the members to the Council. This is the only question which puzzles and reigns supreme in the mind of our Hon'ble Minister. He said in his speech—

I need hardly add that a comprehensive system of bonificazione for the whole of Bengal will involve heavy expenses. Where is the money to come from? Government is not financially prosperous. We cannot under the Reform Scheme expect any aid from the Government of India for a local project of this kind Well, the money must be found and the lives of the people saved. We must have recourse to loans. In no country are such projects financed except by loan. We need not go very far. Calcutta is now different from what it was 50 years ago."

Now one thing that struck our Minister is to have recourse to loans, and we shall examine one by one how we can rest assured on the basis of loan alone. The next idea that our Minister entertains is with regard to the potentialities of our union boards which are going to be formed in some places though they have proved a failure in some places. With regard to union boards, I submit that they cannot supply the necessities of the mufassal because they have only a small revenue and cannot have money enough to excavate one tank even in 10 years. If we rely on the activities of our union boards, we shall have to go disappointed as of late.

The next point is whether there would be sufficient loan for us to remove the difficulties of the mufassal. Having regard to the financial position of this Government, I can say that Government will never be in a position to get sufficient loan for this purpose. Then, if we cannot rely on loans, some other means must be found out. With regard to this, my submission to the Council is to form a committee consisting of expert gentlemen who can find out ways and means and who can be better expected to know the secrets of the province and who can bring forward some scheme which will give satisfaction to the Council for adoption. In the meantime, in my own humble way, I beg to offer some suggestions. My suggestion is to have recourse to the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act. By having recourse to that Act we can improve the water-supply in the mufassal and help the agriculturists by providing large quantities of water for irrigation purposes. Two problems confront us. Under that Act somebody must

give guarantee for financing a scheme before any action can be taken by the Collector. For that purpose for the present the district board can guarantee for one or two works, but the district board is not rich enough to be able to guarantee for any considerable number of works that will be found necessary for the district. With that object in view we must have a large organisation with a large capital of, say, Rs. 3 to 4 crores. My suggestion is that there should be a limited company with a large capital and Government should give a guarantee of profit of, say, 7 per cent. Without that guarantee the public are not likely to contribute largely towards the formation of that sort of organization. My claim for that guarantee is that with regard to large railway and canal projects, private companies are entrusted with this kind of work and they are even guaranteed of the profits by Government in the interest of the public, and this is the primary business of Government to enable the agriculturists to subsist and carry on their business. Unless you help the agriculturists to keep their body and soul together and unless they are helped they cannot go on with cultivation by which the country will suffer. Some time ago there was a resolution for enabling the country to export its rice to foreign countries. We strongly opposed the resolution on the ground that our supply was not sufficient to maintain ourselves. In the mufassal when we have got a project for a large scheme we are confronted with the difficulty of finding suitable contractors. Even in the case of re-excavation of old tanks, we have to entrust the work to ordinary contractors who carry mud and other things. In certain cases no contractor can be found to do it and it has to be abandoned, but if we have an organization with a large capital, this organization can have dredgers and other useful implements at their command and they can promulgate and work out schemes all over the province. They can execute these works and finance them as well. That will obviate the difficulty at the initial stage of taking action under the law, for neither the local boards nor the district boards, nor the local Government can at present give guarantee owing to the paucity of funds.

(A Member: " Is there a quorum? ")

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes.

I may inform members that in regard to the circular just communicated setting forth the time for the discussion of the various motions for demands, the Council will *sit de die in diem*, that is to say, if the list of demands put forward for discussion for a certain day finishes before the hour of adjournment, the discussion of the next demand will be taken up.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: So, Sir, my recommendation to this House is that this should be done, as the Minister has already expressed his willingness that there should be one scheme for the whole province.

Then there is another point which I would like to refer to this Council. At present Government money is being expended over schemes as they come up before Government without any definite idea as to what amount can be expanded for the whole province. During the long period from 1895 to 1919, when the Sanitary Drainage Act was in force, nothing was done to improve the condition in the mufassal. In answer to a question of mine, the Minister in charge of Public Health gave some figures of the works that were done during the the last 10 years from 1911—19. These were Magrahat drainage, Nawisunthi and others which are all in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Nadia. There is a well-known proverb that "charity begins at home," but in the case of the activities of Government we find that charity is confined to home. It is only confined to a few districts around Calcutta and does not extend to the mufassal. If you go on spending Government money in this way without a general scheme for the whole province, years and years will be spent over one or two schemes in districts near Calcutta and nothing will be done for districts which are far away from Calcutta. In this year's budget there is a scheme put forward for the Titaghur Municipality which has promulgated a scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 7 lakhs have been paid for by jute mills and another Rs. 3 lakhs and odd have to be met by the Government though only Rs. 1,000 has been put forward in the budget. That is the thin end of the wedge There is no guarantee that Government are not going to spend a much larger sum of money. If you go on in this fashion, I submit that your money will be frittered away and that your expenditure will be confined to a few districts and without any definite scheme. My submission is that you should not suspend all your activities. You may go on in this fashion, but at the same time you should have a representative and strong committee in order to find out a scheme for the whole province as well as to find out ways and means to finance it and remove the standing grievance of want of water in the mufassal.

Another aspect of the question is that the Agricultural Department is trying its level best to grow a little more jute in the country, but it cannot do anything unless it helps the cultivators to sow their seeds in time. You know that in Eastern Bengal the best lands for jute are the lowlands that go under water during the rains and unless the seeds are sown in time (March), the jute cannot grow to a sufficient height. This year there was a total dearth of water and there was no rain during the months of March and April. Therefore, they could not sow in time. If the flood came as early as in last year, there would have been a total destruction of the crop but thanks to Providence the flood is late, so there is some expectation that there will be a moderate harvest.

My suggestion is that when we are going to supply good drinking water in the mufassal, we should arrange for plenty of water for

irrigation purposes. If we do that, the cultivators need not be at the mercy of the freaks of nature. They will have something to fall back upon when there is a drought. They will be able to water their lands from the nearest well or tank and grow their crops.

With these few words, I commend my resolution to the acceptance of the House.

As there was no quorum, the Council was, at this stage, adjourned till 3 o'clock on Friday.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: May I ask a question? I want to know whether my resolution will stand over till the next session or shall I have to give fresh notice.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I postpone the discussion on your resolution and the other cognate resolutions to the next session.

Adjournment.

The Council was adjourned till Friday, the 7th July, 1922, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 7th July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 95 nominated and elected members.

Supplementary Budget of the Government of Bengal for the year 1922-23.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I have to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has directed that the moving of the demands for grants will continue *de die in diem*, that is, if the business of the 7th is finished before the end of that day, the business of the 10th will be taken up and so on.

Demands for grants.

5.—Land Revenue.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move that a sum of Rs. 9,730 be granted for expenditure under head "5.—Land Revenue."

I do not propose to make any comment at the present moment, as I find that there are three motions for reduction. In my reply to these motions, I will give my reasons for the grant.

Motions for reduction.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 1,050 under head "5.—Land Revenue—Land Acquisition Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 550.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

Since 1914-15, the grant under this head has always been on the increase. But, Sir, let me say that if money was not extracted by

means of taxation, this item would surely not have required any excess demand every year. But when funds have been forthcoming I do not like to say that we should suffer at any rate. At the same time, we should economise. Sir, Rs. 30 has been allotted as pay where Rs. 15 would have sufficed before. It would be extremely hard lines on us if we have to double this expenditure. I think it will be more than sufficient if we increase the demand under this head by one-half.

There is a saying in this country: *shap-o-maruk, lathi-o na bhanguk*, this is, "let the snake be killed, but the club not broken." In other words it implies that we should make our demands without overtaxing the people. I should observe that money is much more necessary for education, sanitation, public health and water supply than this item. Unfortunately, no eye is kept on these matters. It would be something at least to the people if they are benefited by this additional taxation in the furtherance of the cause of education, improvement of sanitation, etc. I, therefore, strongly move that this motion of mine be accepted.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The item which the Shah Sahib wants to reduce from Rs. 1,050 to Rs. 500 involves a very small item, but it is in connection with the proposed increase of the conveyance allowance to the surveyor-valuers of the Land Acquisition office in Calcutta from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 a month. The rate of Rs. 15 was sanctioned about 8 years ago and has been found to be inadequate; last year the Land Acquisition Officer drew the attention of Government to this inadequacy and pointed out that similar officers in the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Corporation drew higher rates. They asked for a still higher rate than Rs. 30, but while Government recognised the fact that Rs. 15 was inadequate, Government did not see its way to consider any rate above Rs. 30 to be justified. It will be seen that this amount is required, and cutting it down to any figure like Rs. 500, as proposed, will do no good; so under the circumstances, I trust the mover will withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,680 for re-writing of Land Registration registers under head "5.—Land Revenue—Land Records—District charges" be refused.

Before I speak on the motion itself, I wish to take this opportunity of entering my most emphatic protest against the manner in which the allotment of time has been made in the time-table for the discussion of the several demands.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Is he in order in criticising His Excellency's order?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot raise any objection on that score, Maulvi Sahib.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I can certainly make comments which I do not think would be out of order. There is nothing in the rules to prevent discussion of this character. I want to discuss——

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Surely the matter rests with His Excellency the Governor and should not be referred to.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I should be very much obliged if the rule could be read out to me which prevents discussions of this character. I have looked through the rules, and I cannot find anything there to prevent such a discussion. Since the rules do not prevent it, I should like these observations to be placed before His Excellency.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The rule is: A member while speaking must not reflect upon the conduct of His Majesty the King-Emperor, the Governor-General, or any Governor.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: It is not casting any reflection on the conduct of the Governor. The Governor, on the advice of someone I do not know, has decided that 15 minutes will be allotted for the discussion of this demand. I submit that 15 minutes is most inadequate. I am entitled to give my reasons, and I am entitled to ask that my remarks be placed for consideration before His Excellency. I am not casting any reflection on the Governor. I ask for a ruling.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I point out that when the Budget came up for discussion, the same procedure was followed? A certain amount of time was given for the discussion of each motion; I do not think there was any irregularity; I do not think any member took any objection to the time-limit then allotted. I do not see why the mover should take any objection to the time-limit now.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: At that time I objected and stated that the time allotted was quite insufficient.

CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Mr. J. Donald): Do you not think we should confine our attention to the item before us?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: My ruling is that you cannot discuss or criticise His Excelency's orders in a debate.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I must bow to your ruling, but I submit most respectfully that you are gagging me. However, I pass on to the reasons for my objection to the demand.

We find on reference to page 4 of this book which has been characterised by the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr as " a little book of demands " that the sum of Rs. 8,680 will be necessary for the re-writing of Land Registration registers in the Midnapore district on the basis of the record-of-rights prepared during the last settlement operations, and for this purpose two clerks on Rs. 50 per mensem, six section clerks on Rs. 40, six assistant section clerks on Rs. 35, six assistant section clerks on Rs. 30, sixteen mohurrirs on Rs. 25 each will be necessary. There will also be necessary two duftries and two peons, but I do not object to this latter item, because these persons will certainly be Muhammadans. Therefore, so far as this item is concerned, I fail to see why this work cannot be performed by the permanent staff. I know that settlement operations entail the re-writing of Land Registration registers, still the work is not of such an arduous character that a permanent establishment on so extensive a scale should be required. Besides, if this was a non-recurring charge we might have allowed a sum of Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 8,000 for re-writing registers, but this year we know that this extra expenditure will amount to Rs. 8,680, and the total ultimate expenditure will be nearly Rs. 15,000; that is to say, the tax-payers of the Midnapore district will be saddled with a permanent charge of over Rs. 16,000 a year for the simple purpose of noting changes introduced by the setlement operations. This is the thin end of the wedge and on that principle I object to the expenditure. The ministerial establishment should be paid at temporary rates, and I object to the establishment being of a permanent character.

With these remarks, I object to the demand being granted.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Whenever I find my friend, for whom I always have a sneaking liking, on the warpath, I apprehend that he has been suffering from indigestion.

If he will look at the page referred to, he will find that this establishment is temporary and not a permanent establishment. It is true the total expenditure will be Rs. 14,880, of which amount we have provided Rs. 8,680 this year. As for the number of hands required, it has been put in on the basis of past experience of the requirements of such establishments. It cannot be denied that the re-writing of Land Registration registers is necessary when settlement records are completed. The settlement records of Midnapore having been completed, the time has arrived for the work of re-writing the Land Registration registers. This is a necessity in order that the Collectorate registers which form the basis of the work of collection of revenue should be up to date. The longer it is postponed, the more it will cost, and the more troublesome the actual work of collecting on the basis of inaccurate registers will become. The revision of the Collectorate registers on the basis of

the most up-to-date information by the settlement records is, therefore, but merely elementary prudence leading to economy in the end. It is not a new idea, but the accepted policy of Government. The provision of Rs. 8,680, as already mentioned, out of a total of Rs. 14,880, is what we require for the completion of the re-writing of these Land Registration registers, and I ask this Council to consider whether there is any real reason to object to such an item, which is an absolute necessity.

For these reasons, I must press for the demand and oppose the motion for reduction.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand for expenditure under head " 5.—Land Revenue " be refused.

The allotted time has almost expired. Before I go on, I wish to point out that I hope my remarks may reach His Excellency the Governor. Only nine minutes are left for me to move this motion; the Maharajadhiraja will appropriate seven minutes of this, and Shah Sahib and myself will have only two minutes; it is impossible to get on in this short space of time, therefore I do not wish to say anything. I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 9,730 be granted for expenditure under head " 5.—Land Revenue " was then put and agreed to.

8.—Forests.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [FORESTS] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move that a sum of Rs. 19,171 be granted for expenditure under head " 8.—Forests."

Motions for reduction.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,000 for expenditure under head " 8.—Forests " for completion of Divisional Forest Officer's bungalow at Cox's Bazar be refused.

In spite of the insufficiency of time, I think I must go on. The sum required for this purpose is Rs. 8,000, and we find in the note made by Mr. Spry in that " little book " that recently the Divisional Forest Officer's bungalow was burnt down, that it is essentially necessary to reconstruct it, and that Government have already sanctioned the purchase of certain stores for this purpose. I fail to see why the Hon'ble Member now comes to the Council for sanction when already some

money has been spent without our consent. The term "completion of the Forest Officer's bungalow" shows that expenditure has already been incurred, and we do not know how many thousands of rupees have already been spent. I am afraid that this kind of demand cannot be granted. Secondly, for a Divisional Forest Officer's bungalow, the sum required, *viz.*, Rs. 8,000, is big enough; besides, some few thousands of rupees have already been spent on this account. At any rate the demand should be refused.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 8,000 under head "8.—Forests" for completion of Divisional Forest Officer's bungalow at Cox's Bazar be reduced by Rs. 4,000.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

I have been asked by the President to be brief. As Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has advanced arguments in support of his motion, which is almost identical with mine, I do not like to go over the same ground again. But he has refused this grant *in toto*, whereas I am only in favour of the reduction of the grant by one-half. As the beat-houses were burnt down, I think their reconstruction is necessary, and this, I hope, may be done—at least may serve our purpose in these days of financial stringency—with the amount suggested by me, *viz.*, Rs. 4,000.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The Forest Officer's bungalow at Cox's Bazar, as Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has pointed out, was burnt down. The work of reconstruction was begun last year, and we have spent a considerable sum of money with the sanction of this Council last year. This amount, which is now put in at Rs. 8,000, is required to complete the work which was begun last year. I am sorry that in this book only Rs. 8,000 has been put down, because the amount already spent should also have found its place there. The fact of the matter is that the work is in a half-completed state at present and this amount is required to complete the bungalow; this bungalow is required for the Forest Officer, and it would be inadvisable to refuse or curtail this demand. Therefore, I hope the movers of the motions for reduction or refusal of the demand would see their way to withdraw the motions.

The motions were then put and lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 980 under head "8.—Forests—Scheme 18" be refused.

I raise objection to this demand as I am not satisfied with the arrangement made. It is stated in this book of demands that in view of the increase in the cost of living and in order to attract and retain suitable candidates in the service, Government have sanctioned the abolition of the third grade of foresters on Rs. 25 and the redistribution of the

present 70 posts in the proportion of 33 posts in the first grade on Rs. 35 and 37 posts in the second grade on Rs. 30. So it is admitted that these posts should be made attractive. If that is so, I do not understand why the case of the men in the third grade and eight only in the second grade and not the remaining men in the second grade or the first grade is considered. I think if any consideration is to be shown, it should be shown to all. Of course, if there be any unworthy persons, their cases need not be considered, but I do not see any reason why no consideration should be shown to the remaining men in the second and the first grades in these days of expensive living. I do not wish to be extravagant, but I cannot understand how it is that there are no deserving men in the first grade and there are eight only in the second grade. I should like Government to place a statement before the House.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The amount that we have put in here has been based on certain memorials submitted to Government; the Conservator of Forrests went into the matter and submitted these recommendations. With regard to the other posts which Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has mentioned, Government at present do not consider that there is any case for further increment. Of course, if there is any case for any further increment, no doubt I shall come up to the Council with a fresh demand; but that is no reason why we should deprive those for whom certain increment is justified, and for that reason this amount has been put in in the supplementary budget. I therefore press for the demand.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not suggest a reduction. My suggestion is that something more should be done. However, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand for expenditure under head " 8.—Forests " be refused.

I see only six minutes now remaining for me to move this motion. I rise to say a few words why I suggest that the total demand should be refused. In this Council with the Secretaries to the Government sitting in serried phalanx in front and the members of the Government behind to bring up the rear, it is impossible to make out a case for total reduction within the short space of six minutes. I shall, however, attempt to do the impossible and see what I can do.

The money proposed to be spent is really what will be realised by the working of the new taxation Acts, or in other words, the money that will come to the revenues of the province by taxes realised from the people. Now all this money is of an exceptional character because it will be realised by the operation of taxes which were imposed under circumstances of exceptional necessity. I was sitting here at the time that the taxation Bills were introduced, and if I understood the Hon'ble

Sir John Kerr aright, I thought I heard him say that the money that would be realised would be spent primarily for the support of the nation-building departments, or, in other words, the money would be spent for such productive purposes as would lead to the expansion of the departments transferred to the popular control. Unfortunately, however, on opening the "little book" we find that instead of spending the money for the nation-building departments, thousands have been spent for the building of bungalows for forest officers. Sir, there is a great deal of difference between the buildings of bungalows and the building of the nation-building departments. I feel that I was one of those who did not resist the passage of the taxation Bills. I ought to point out to the officials that every pice of this money should be spent in conformity with the pledges solemnly given, that not a pice of it should be spent unless under circumstances of exceptional necessity, and without money first being appropriated for the up-keep of the departments transferred to popular control. The proposals that are now before us are not of such character. They do not therefore justify expenditure out of revenues derived from the new taxes. I hope I will get time to explain why I have, as a matter of fact, suggested that the entire demand, as set forth in this book, be refused. Meanwhile I may indicate, as one of my reasons, that there is a Retrenchment Committee sitting and it is necessary that we should await the report of that committee before we embark on further expenditure.

I wish to explain to the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan that in his reply to my first motion for reduction under this head he was pleased to say that some thousands had already been spent for the completion of the forest officer's bungalow and that Rs. 8,000 more was required——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot discuss that point now; please confine your remarks to the motion.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I do not wish to say anything more.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): The member has referred to me in mentioning the pledges which were given in regard to the taxation Bills; I should like to say a few words in reply. Members who listened to the debates on the taxation Bills will remember that demands were made from various quarters for some assurance as to the manner in which the surplus we should get from the operation of these Bills would be spent. In reply, I said that it was quite impossible for me at that time to give any detailed assurance on that point, because the allotment of surplus revenues was not a matter for the Finance Department, but for the Government as a whole. But I indicated that the

prospect was that in allocating the surplus, we should give about one-third to the reserved departments and two-thirds to the transferred departments. That undertaking we have carried out to the letter; as I explained the other day when I introduced the supplementary estimates, we have a total sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to spend; out of that, Rs. 17½ lakhs has been allotted to the reserved departments and Rs. 32½ lakhs to the transferred departments. Of the expenditure covered by the estimates, which we are considering this week, Rs. 11,79,000 is being asked for by the reserved departments and Rs. 22,51,000 by the transferred departments, that is to say, the demands of the transferred departments are almost double those of the reserved departments. Under the circumstances, I submit that there is no substance in the objections of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I have nothing more to add to what I have already said.

The motion was then put and lost.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 19,174 be granted for expenditure under head "8.—Forests" was then put and agreed to.

22.—General Administration.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT and POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I move that a sum of Rs. 1,80,582 be granted for expenditure under head "22.—General Administration."

It will be observed that there are a number of items under this head, which technically come within my department, but the actual items with which I am personally concerned are few; and the members in charge of the respective departments will answer the attacks on individual items. I may perhaps be allowed to make one or two remarks of a general character. The first thing that I should like to impress upon the Council is that the demands that are now being presented are not the result of our having a little money to spend and looking about how to spend it. From the point of view of an officer in charge of a spending department, I may explain that what has happened is that when we were preparing our budgets, the Finance Department seized on any items that were not in the last year's budget, and said: "These are strangers, heave a brick at them; or in other words, put them in the schedule." The result is that we had in our schedule, after the budget was passed, all the items of expenditure which were not absolutely obligatory last year, and out of that schedule we have had to compress and pick out only the most absolutely essential items of this year's expenditure.

The second remark of a general character which will also apply later on to many of the motions relating to the police, is that one member has given notice of a considerable number of amendments suggesting small reductions or a rounding off from the amounts put down in the supplementary grants. I was at first inclined to think that this was possibly by way of an amusement tax, though I thought the incidence was hardly fair. I understand however that the intention is to cut off a small percentage from every item. The Council will certainly agree that this is not a proper course when the details of individual items are dealt with. If the Council considers it right to entertain a clerk at a cost of Rs. 100 a month, is it reasonable to say that we may have a clerk on Rs. 100 a month but we shall only be allowed to give him Rs. 95 a month?

There is one other question I should like to touch on, and that is regarding the circle officers. I wish to explain my exact position with regard to circle officers. The Appointment Department are only concerned with these officers because they have to recruit them. The justification for the employment of these officers will be given by the Local Self-Government Department. But I wish only to explain here that when the Local Self-Government Department require circle officers, we have to recruit them two or three years ahead, because any newly-recruited officer, who has passed not the examination and who is not trained in district administration work, will be of little use. Therefore, we have to recruit them three or four years ahead; and that is why we put these demands this year although the circle officers will not be required till two years hence.

Motions for reductions.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,703 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 1' for provision for increased rates of pay for His Excellency's Body Guard, be reduced by Rs. 703."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 3,627 under head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 2" for His Excellency's Body Guard clothing allowance, be reduced by Rs. 627.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

This is a matter which concerns His Excellency. I hail from a rural area and I am a very poor man, and as such, it is my duty to be economic in all possible ways. I think Government carries out every business after due deliberation and considered judgment, but it is not within our bounds to appreciate it. I know it will be difficult, nay

impossible, for me to carry such a motion in this House, having regard to the fact that those who are far more advanced in education, I mean English education, cannot carry their resolutions and motions, of a much more important character. However, I depend everything upon the Hon'ble the Member in charge. To my mind, this item may be safely reduced by Rs. 627, and if this can be done, it will be admirable indeed, since it primarily affects His Excellency. It has also to be considered whether the old clothes can be utilised.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This is one of the questions to which I referred just now. I think the Council will agree with me that it is not reasonable, if it is conceded that His Excellency's Body Guard should have a full dress uniform at a cost of Rs. 3,627 from the Army Clothing Factory, for them to say that they will only pay Rs. 3,000. In that case I do not understand who is going to pay the rest. It seems to me that the motion is one which needs no words of mine to induce the Council to throw it out.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 720 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 3,' be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 720 for expenditure under head "22.—General Administration" for the creation of a lower division post in the Revenue Department be refused.

I will not press this motion if the Hon'ble Member in charge will be pleased to enlighten me if posts of this kind are going to be created for every department in the Secretariat. I understand that the introduction of Reforms has increased the work in every department, and if the appointment of additional clerks is common to all the departments, I do not object to it. But if it be otherwise, I must press my motion.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The question regarding the additional clerk is simply this. On the introduction of the Reforms and the changes introduced in the Secretariat, all work regarding the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Darjeeling District was transferred to the Revenue Department and it was anticipated that the additional work thus transferred would require a whole-time clerk to deal with it. The appointment of this clerk was kept in abeyance pending some experience as to the actual amount of work. It has been found by actual experience that the work for the excluded areas is quite enough for one assistant. The separate treatment of Darjeeling and the introduction of the district

administration system in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has added considerably to the work. It is now evident that the work of the department has increased by 33 per cent. on account of work in connection with Jails, Emigration, Excluded Areas, Agricultural Loans, General Administration Report, Budget work relating to district and sub-divisional establishment under the head "22.—General Administration."

The question as to how many clerks will actually be required to deal with the increase of work is being carefully examined. In the meantime, it is proposed to add one post in the lower division which was considered absolutely necessary in connection with the work relating to the Excluded Areas. The clerk has been employed temporarily with effect from the 28th March, 1922, and it will be seen, therefore, that this additional clerk is necessary.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,990 under head '22.—General Administration,' for the additional permanent establishment for the Agriculture and Industries Department, be refused.

When I received this super-royal book of supplementary grants with its beautiful printing, high class paper, and artistic cover, I thought that the financial crisis of Bengal was over at last. This first impression of mine was confirmed by a perusal of many of the contents because I found that some demands which had been put down as not important, and, therefore, not so necessary for the work of administration have been brought up as soon as the taxation Bills have been passed. This demand for a Registrar is one of them. It appears that since the Reforms, the number of Secretaries in the Civil Secretariat has been increased and I believe that in some of the departments, the staff has also been considerably increased. It is time now that a thorough examination of the working of these department should be made to see whether this increase was justified and whether a further increase is necessary. We all know that the new Retrenchment Committee, that has been appointed, is going to submit its report before the introduction of the next year's Budget. The scheme, which has safely waited for one year and a half, could safely have waited for six months more, for a thorough examination by this committee. I do not see any earthly reason why this scheme should be passed through just now.

Then again, we have been told in the note that the appointment of a Registrar is also very necessary as the duties of this officer, which are numerous and responsible, can no longer be efficiently performed by the Head Assistant in addition to his own duties. Now, Sir, the system of having a highly-paid officer in the department, where the

work has always been smoothly done by the Head Assistant, is one which does not appeal to me. It has been said that the appointment of a Registrar is necessary, but we have not been told why the Head Assistant cannot manage his duties.

As far as I know the Head Assistants of the Secretariat are very efficient workers and they manage their work fully well, and I do not think it is proper, in these days of retrenchment and economy, to appoint expensive officers just now. So I would suggest that the scheme be kept in abeyance for six months more for examination by the Retrenchment Committee.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I have got a motion exactly similar to the one just moved by my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, and I therefore rise to support him in urging that the demand for Rs. 8,990 be refused.

The Hon'ble Sir John Kerr has told us that the only pledge that was given at the time of the passing of the new taxation Bills was that about two-thirds of the money would be spent on the transferred departments and about one-third on the reserved departments. The proportion may have been maintained, but I still urge that although the pledge may not have been broken in letter, yet it has been broken in spirit, because the proposals for expenditure on the reserved and the transferred departments, are such as cannot be reasonably supported in the present condition of the financial stringency of this province. The present demand is for the appointment of a Registrar, and some additional establishment, for the Department of Agriculture and Industries. The note by Mr. Spry begins by eulogising the splendid service rendered to the country by the three departments of Co-operative Credit, Agriculture and Industries. We, Sir, who live in the country and are of the people born and bred amongst the people, living amidst the people, fail to see what good or benefit has been done to the country by the activities of any of these three departments hitherto.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry): May I rise to offer a personal explanation? I am not responsible for the remarks which appear in the notes.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I never made any disparaging remarks. In fact I wanted to fasten the responsibility on somebody, and finding his name on the first page, I mentioned his name.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: I did not mean that, Sir, I thought the member might be praising me. (Laughter.)

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Well, Sir, the unknown official, who is responsible for these remarks, has omitted to mention the reasons for the appointment of this additional staff. I would not have ordinarily

objected to the establishment, but I submit that a Retrenchment Committee is going to sit very soon to suggest reduction in expenditure, and it may be that much of the money that is being spent by this department may be curtailed by it. If that is so, to embark on new expenditure is not only unjustifiable but unwise. My suggestion, therefore, is that we should wait for the findings of this committee, then take stock of the work that has already been done by this department and then come up with proposals for further expenditure if necessary. I find that the pay of the Registrar is Rs. 600—750 *plus* a Calcutta House Allowance of about Rs. 1,000 a year, which is a very expensive luxury. It may be that the Head Assistant is slightly overworked, that is because the Co-operative Credit Department has been over-officialised; but supposing that the Head Assistant is at the present moment slightly overworked, surely we do not require another officer on Rs. 600—750 with the Calcutta House Allowance of nearly Rs. 1,000 a year to assist and take some part of his work from him, I mean his overflow work. This work can be done by a much lower paid assistant, and the manner in which this proposal has been made before the Council shows the heartless indifference to the need for the most rigid economy on the part of the officer coming up for this grant. He ought to remember that we are passing through a crisis, and that although we have got money now, it has been at the cost of an over-taxed body of tax-payers, and, therefore, a proposal of such an extravagant character should never have been made.

The additional staff consists of—

1 Registrar.

2 Upper Division Assistants.

3 Lower Division Assistants.

1 Typist.

1 Mohurrir.

2 Peons.

The appointment of a peon I do not object to on the ground that he may be a Muhammadan, but the others I consider to be absolutely unnecessary.

I wish to make one remark with regard to the Department of Industries. It is time that the department has closed down its activities. I am firmly convinced that the Department of Industries can never develop the industries of the province. All that it has done is that it has taken lease of a house on Rs. 4,000 a month and has spent Rs. 25,000 in house repairs, although it did not turn out four pice worth of work in the year. I think its activities should be put a stop to.

Although the demand is one which relates to one of the transferred department, I respectfully submit that it is one which is not justified under the circumstances, and I hope the Council will refuse it.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: This motion of mine is exactly on the same lines as those moved by previous speakers. It is evident from the agenda that there are no less than seven resolutions in connection with this particular matter which, obviously therefore, has attracted considerable attention.

It has been stated in the memorandum that the Head Assistant's work would be much more efficiently done if, in lieu of a Head Assistant, a Registrar was appointed on a higher salary, and, with necessary appanages in the shape of additional clerks to suit the paraphernalia of a Registrar's office. It has been stated over and over again by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department, that owing to the financial stringency the Government had had to cut and clip the Budget in many directions and anyhow manage to carry on the administration. His Excellency the Earl of Lytton, on the assumption of his exalted office, at once found the necessity of appointing a Retrenchment Committee, and from his speech in the Council, it appeared that he was prepared to go so far as to give them the power to make recommendations for reduction in the same way as the Geddes Committee had done in England. That is the attitude of the head of the Government. The Finance Member of Government has also told us that the utmost economy is necessary and that he has only allowed such items to be included in the Budget as could not be safely omitted without bringing the administration to a deadlock; but I do not think that a clear case has been made out to add this item to the list of supplementary estimates.

As far as I am aware, there is not much difference between a Head Assistant and a Registrar, except in name and perhaps in dignity and emoluments. My personal experience is that some of the capable Head Assistants are ordinarily promoted to the post of Registrar. If the Head Assistant has been so long conducting the business of this particular department without bringing the administration to a deadlock, I do not think that in the present condition of our finances any urgent and unavoidable necessity has arisen to demand provision for a Registrar. It seems to me, reading from the note that is appended to the statement, that the idea is to appoint a Registrar for the department of Agriculture and Industries, just as there is one for every other department in the Secretariat. It is the fashion of the bureaucracy to add to the establishment in this way—Registrars, Head Assistants, Under-Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, etc. Instead of one Lieutenant-Governor and two or three Secretaries, we have now got seven members of the Cabinet and many Secretaries, all doing practically the same work, and, to keep up the dignity of the present Cabinet, it is sought to multiply appointments. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries will agree with the view of the Council—at least the view of the non-official members of the Council—that it is

better that he should wait till the Retrenchment Committee finishes its labours.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: The previous speakers have all given their reasons for asking the Council not to pass this demand which is going to be of a permanent character. I find in the book of supplementary demands for grants, that the recurring expenditure alone is Rs. 2,761. All the previous speakers have pointed out, and I think with great force and reason, that this item, even if it be necessary, can stand over for some time. What will be the meaning of the "Retrenchment Committee" that has been formed only lately? What will they do, if, before the Retrenchment Committee start its work, we start on adding new departments, making new appointments, and calling for new expenditure? Now, Sir, this state of things will, I am sure, subject this Council to a good deal of criticism from the public. Taxation measures were passed on the ground that without taxation Government might be brought to a deadlock. If the existing staff could manage the work for such a length of time, I, for one, do not see any reason why the existing staff should not be in a positon to carry on the work for seven months more. Let us wait till the end of the year. This figure for recurring expenditure is simply terrifying. Under these circumstances, if for no other reasons other than those for the sake of decency, even if this demand for grant is necessary, I think the House should refuse the grant just now.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 8,990 for a Registrar under head "22.—General Administration—Agriculture and Industries Department," be refused.

I have been already anticipated by some of my hon'ble friends. When I sent in notice of this amendment, I was not aware that so many of my friends were also anxious to do away with this expenditure which was considered to be unnecessary. I have been a bit connected with industries and so I know something about the work in the Industries Department under the Government of Bengal. I do feel that, instead of making correspondence and increasing their files, if the Government were to extend a little more sympathy to our existing institutions and industries, their work would be much better appreciated by the people. The three departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operative are very important departments of Government and cannot but demand our co-operation in their work. But what is very unfortunate is this: that their work is more concentrated towards finding out statistics, going on with correspondence, finding out schemes and so on. The effect of their work is very little felt, at least has not been appreciably felt in this country. That is the reason why I take my stand against this additional expenditure of nearly Rs. 9,000 for that very purpose. I find that there are Directors in all these departments, there are Assistant

Directors too, and now we are told that there must be a Registrar. The reason given in the memorandum is that the work has increased very much. To our knowledge the only work that has increased is correspondence and office work. Some of the previous speakers have forcibly pointed out that the work cannot be improved by the addition of another important officer. There must be one responsible head and the work of correspondence, etc., may be left to ministerial officers under him. The mythological gods and demi-gods have of course three or four or more heads, but Government departments should not follow Hindu mythology, but should only have one head. What is wanted is more encouragement and support to our struggling industries.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved "that the demand for Rs. 8,990 under head "22.—General Administration" for the additional permanent establishment for Agriculture and Industries Department, be reduced by Rs. 5,915.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

I do not like to recapitulate what has been said by the other speakers on this motion. It will, indeed, be very reasonable if this proposal is kept in abeyance until the Retrenchment Committee is appointed. After the report of the Retrenchment Commitee is out, if it is decided to remove the officers of this department, people will raise a hue and cry. Owing to the increase of work in the Government offices, consequent on the Reforms, Government wants to swell the number of officers, clerks, etc. I can, however, confidently assert that the bulk of the work is generally carried on by the clerical establishment, who are so lowly paid. The proposal is that there will be two upper division clerks. I would reduce it to one, and allow Rs. 875 on this account. Amongst the three lower division clerks, I would reduce Rs. 840 for two clerks and Rs. 4,200 as Registrar's pay. All these reductions, I suggest, are to be calculated on the basis of seven months' salaries. The Registrar's post, I should like to add here, is quite unnecessary. The two clerks, one in the upper division and the other in the lower division, will be quite sufficient for the purpose. So I would refuse the whole amount of Rs. 8,990.

It is seen in the Budget estimate for 1921-22 that Rs. 53,000 was granted under this head, and now the grant has been increased to Rs. 84,000. Out of this grant Rs. 41,000 is a voted item in place of Rs. 20,000, that is to say, the voted amount is almost double. I hope, however, that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge will consider this question very carefully.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I oppose the reduction of Rs. 8,990 for the additional

permanent establishment for the Department of Agriculture and Industries. This department was brought into being on the inauguration of the Reforms Scheme. It was always recognized that the introduction of the Reforms would necessitate an increase in the Secretariat establishment as the much longer sessions of the Legislative Council and the growth of political activities would inevitably add to the burden of work devolving on the Secretaries and their staff. The Agriculture and Industries Department was, however, created temporarily for one year only, to gauge the effect of the Reforms and only a small clerical establishment was sanctioned. The staff sanctioned in fact not only made no allowance for the expansion of work, but was barely sufficient for the minimum estimated requirements of the department. Further, Sir, the additional expenditure involved was very small. The majority of the clerks were drafted in from other departments and only two new clerical posts were created. Moreover, no Registrar was allowed and the important duties which he has to perform were carried out by the Head Assistant in addition to his own work. The Registrar is responsible for the proper management, efficiency, discipline and routine of the office. He is required to supervise the work constantly and to inspect at least once a day the work of every assistant to see that it is properly dealt with and that there is no unavoidable delay. The want of such an officer has been seriously felt and has thrown excessive work on the Head Assistant and the Assistant Secretary, to the detriment of their own duties. Experience has shown that the office cannot be properly managed without a Registrar. I may add that there is a Registrar in every other department of the Secretariat.

When the department was created it was estimated on past figures that 9,000 letters would be received and issued in the course of a year. But that figure, Sir, was exceeded by 100 per cent., over 18,000 letters being received and issued in 1921. In addition, the Legislative Council has shown a keen interest in the work of the department. During 1921 it had to deal with 73 resolutions, 29 motions and 136 questions. According to the standard of work laid down for the Secretariat, a very large increase of staff might justifiably have been demanded. But we have made a demand which in view of the facts I have quoted is essentially a modest one. Our demand and the grounds on which it has been made have been closely scrutinized, and I assure the Council that the staff for which I am asking is the smallest with which the work of the department can be managed with reasonable efficiency. I ask the Council to reject this motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I ask one question? Does the Registrar draft replies to letters? The Hon'ble Minister said just now that the number of letters had risen from 9,000 to 18,000.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have already defined the work of the Registrar.

The motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta being put to the vote, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

All, Mr. Syed Erfan.
All, Munshi Amir.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 28 and the Noes 36, the motion was lost.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
All, Mr. Syed Erfan.
All, Munshi Amir.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Ray, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. H.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdue.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 26 and the Noes 40, the motion was lost.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 3,325 under head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 6," be refused.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I may tell you that we have still about 23 or 24 motions and these we shall have to finish within one hour. So I can give each speaker only 2 or 2½ minutes.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: This is the second time that you have drawn our attention to this matter. Will you point out to His Excellency that in connection with retrenchment, our speeches are also being retrenched?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think it is a legitimate grievance on the part of non-official members.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: With reference to that, may I point out that, under the rules, not more than 12 days may be allotted for the main budget discussion? The main budget of the Government of Bengal involves an expenditure of Rs. 10¼ crores. The supplementary estimates which we are now presenting to the Council cover a demand of Rs. 34 lakhs only. For the voting of that demand of Rs. 34 lakhs, His Excellency has allotted five days, and I submit to the Council that that allotment of time is ample.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The reason is that the demand of Rs. 34 lakhs contains items which are open to serious objection.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I do not know whether the time taken up by the Hon'ble Member will be deducted from my 2½ minutes. (Laughter.)

The motion which stands in my name runs thus:—That the demand of Rs. 3,325 under head "22.—General Administration" for the revision of Bengali Translator's establishment, be refused.

I wish to make one or two observations. It may be said that these are small items, and that we should rather try to get hold of big fishes and reduce crores and lakhs; but these small items make up crores and lakhs. Further, I may point out that the financial statement for the current year shows a deficit of Rs. 1 crore 20 lakhs: the surplus revenue is Rs. 1 crore 40 lakhs. Of the actual surplus Rs. 1 crore 20 lakhs goes to meet the deficit, leaving a surplus of Rs. 20 lakhs. Out of that I find that in this first instalment, in this additional budget, Rs. 34 lakhs is asked for expenditure, and out of that Rs. 34 lakhs, Rs. 24 or rather Rs. 22 lakhs is for non-recurring grants and Rs. 12 lakhs for recurring grants. Recurring grants, as far as I understand, are a permanent addition to our establishment, and having regard to the fact that we have got about Rs. 19 lakhs available, if in this July session we go on making permanent recurring grant of Rs. 12 lakhs, and if in the next August session the remaining Rs. 8 lakhs is made up by way of permanent expenditure, then the situation will be that we will be faced with the same position as we were in at the beginning of April last, that is to say, when we framed the Budget. Therefore, I am not quite sure whether we shall not have again the honour of being called upon to vote for further taxation. Now, Sir, coming to this point, it has been stated that this additional establishment for the Bengali Translator's office is necessary in order to concentrate in that office the whole work of translation. The translation work of the Commissioner of Police is to be transferred to the Translation Department of the Government of Bengal. As far as I understand, this is the drift of the note appended to the statement. I wish to know whether there is any corresponding reduction in the charge for translation work in the Commissioner's office. If that is so, I do not think it necessary to press my motion, but if that is not so, and if this concentration of the translation work from the Commissioner of Police and other places to the head office means this additional expenditure, I think it is my duty to point out that this is not warranted in the present state of provincial finances. We should see how the whole question of establishment is considered by the Retrenchment Committee before we sanction this expenditure, thereby making the work of the Retrenchment Committee all the more difficult.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I have an identical motion. The reason for this demand is given on page 25 of the supplementary budget. It runs as follows:—

"The proposal is to re-arrange the work of translation in the office of the Bengali Translator and in that of the Commissioner of Police and Intelligence Branch, Criminal Investigation Department. The

idea is to concentrate in the Bengali Translator's office the whole work of translation with a view to more convenient and expeditious work."

So far as the scheme is concerned, I should say that this is a move in the right direction. The transfer of all translation work of the Police Department to a responsible and expert department like that of the Bengali Translator to the Government will undoubtedly afford considerable security to the people concerned, as the Finance Department has held out, will secure more efficiency, and, Sir, I might say, that it ought to have secured economy as well, because at present a lot of identical translation work is done both in the Police office and in the office of the Bengali Translator. We, however, find, Sir, that a demand has been made for an additional grant and it is proposed to appoint two new assistants, one on Rs. 250 and another on Rs. 200, and also one additional stenographer on Rs. 175. Well, Sir, as the work in the Translator's office is going to be increased to some extent, I do not grudge the department this additional staff, but, Sir, what I object to, is this demand for a new grant. The translation work of the Police Department is at present done in the Police office, and from the Police budget we find that highly-paid assistants in the Police office are specially employed on this work and the Police office also employs several stenographers, one of whom, it can be assumed, is exclusively kept for this kind of work. So, if their work is to be transferred to the Bengali Translator's Department, it follows, as a natural sequence, that these assistants, too, should be transferred to the Translator's office. Therefore, Sir, the proper course for the Finance Department should have been not to make a demand for a new grant but to ask for the transfer of a portion of the Police grant to the General Administration Department. But, Sir, the Finance Department, in spite of all its tall talk about rigid economy and the pruning-knife, seems to have overlooked the fact. And the result has been that the Police Department is to enjoy its full grant, no matter even if its translation work is to be done elsewhere, and we are asked to vote for a new grant for that purpose. I put it to the House whether we should be justified in allowing the demand in its present shape. Let the Government ask for a transfer of the necessary amount from the Police grant and we shall be too glad to allow it, because, Sir, as I have said already, we have no quarrel with the principle underlying the proposal.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 3,325 under head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 6," for the revision of the Bengali Translator's establishment, be reduced by Rs. 2,500.

If the above be not carried, he also moved that the demand be reduced by Rs. 105.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This demand is for certain additional establishment in the Bengali Translator's office. I admit that

there is a certain amount of ignorance as to what the Bengali Translator's office does. I myself was ignorant of the details until about three years ago when I had an occasion to go into the matter. The main work of the Bengali Translator, who is the survivor of three Translators—Bengali, Urdu and Uriya is, besides translating Bills, proclamations and so forth when they come up, to write a weekly report on the vernacular press and to compile a yearly report on the vernacular press of the province. For that purpose he scrutinises every day the daily vernacular papers with the sole view of including them in his weekly reports. When he comes across anything particularly worthy of notice, he sends the translation of that up to the Chief Secretary. At the same time the identical work is going in the office of the Commissioner of Police and in the office of the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch. The work there used to be done by executive officers: there was no translator. The result was an executive officer was taken off his ordinary executive duties and put on the work of going through the daily papers. This officer would call the attention of the Commissioner, to any particular passage which appeared to him objectionable and then a translation of it would be prepared which eventually would wander on to the Chief Secretary. When the Director of Information was appointed he was the third or fourth person who was required to study the vernacular press, and the question arose how he would get his translation work done. We then very closely went into the whole question and came to the conclusion that the proper thing to do was, as the Kumar Sahib said, to put all our translation work into one hand—to make the Bengali Translator responsible for all translation work of Government in Calcutta. I may say that if Government wanted to take any action on any of the translations made by the office of the Commissioner of Police or of the Deputy Inspector-General, they would have to get that portion translated again by the Bengali Translator as they cannot take any action on these unofficial translations sent up by the Commissioner of Police or the Deputy Inspector-General. Therefore, it was decided that in future the work of the Bengali Translator mainly would be to go through all the vernacular papers in the province every day. He would have a staff of readers who would read these papers and at the same time mark anything that required the attention of the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Police, or the Deputy Inspector-General. Anything of importance to these officers would be marked and a summary made on the spot. This would entail a considerable amount of extra work on the Bengali Translator's office. I may say that the Bengali Translator's office has never been to my mind on a very satisfactory footing. The work used to come in rushes and we had several applications for extra hands which were very difficult for us to resist. It will be observed that two of the four posts are already in existence on a temporary basis and we propose merely to confirm them. Having decided on the proper lines to take for the translation work of the Government offices, we had to decide

what the proper staff of the Bengali Translator's office should be, and it was decided, on the lines I have mentioned, that there should be a head reader, an assistant reader and four translators. The whole work of that office should be done not merely with a view to taking extracts from the daily papers, not merely with a view to compile the annual report, but for the purpose of going through all the vernacular papers and of writing a fair note on the tone of the press. The Bengali Translator had very different ideas as to the staff necessary, but we have cut down his proposals considerably. As I have said, the question was taken up originally in 1920. We threshed it out and in 1921 we finally came to the right staff, but for want of money the scheme could not be started last year. The Finance Department was unable to provide for this in the Budget this year, and, therefore, we have put it down in the supplementary estimates. I may explain that there has been no reduction of establishment in the other offices as this work used to be done in those offices by executive officers who have now been put to their proper executive duties.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: There is a mistake in the Hon'ble Member's statement.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: Is he in order?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot now criticise the speech of the Hon'ble Member.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Suppose the House is misled by the statement of the Hon'ble Member, I think I am entitled to ask a question. Is it not a fact that there are at least two ministerial officers in the Intelligence Branch who are specially employed on this work of going through newspapers and translating them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: My impression is that there are certainly no such clerks. It is part of the work of the clerks of the Intelligence Branch to review the Indian-owned English papers. I shall certainly look into this matter. If there is a man whose whole time is employed on this translation work, I will certainly see that he is transferred to the Translator's office.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is there any difference between Indian-owned English papers and other English papers?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot cross-examine the Hon'ble Member.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur's motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Bahadur Nihmani.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 24 and the Noes 46, the motion was lost.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motions were then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Before we proceed further, I beg your leave to make a statement to the Council of a somewhat personal character. I find from the newspapers reports that the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr, in replying to my remarks regarding the representation of Muhammadans on the Retrenchment Committee, said that I wanted to be on the committee. I take his words to mean that I expressed a desire to be on the committee, and that, having been refused, I made those remarks. I never wanted to be on the committee—it is absolutely false. If it is a mistake, I hope Sir John Kerr will correct his statement. I was not present here at the time, I was attending a Corporation meeting, or I would have drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Member to it at the time.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: What I said was that from his speech it was evident that if he were appointed to the committee, he would regard it to be his function to look after the interests of the Muhammadan employees. I did not say that the Maulvi Sahib asked to be put on the committee.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I am thankful to the Hon'ble Member for clearing up this matter.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 94,000 under head "22.—General Administration—District Administration" for the appointment of circle officers, be refused.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope, Mr. Dutta, you will be very brief because we shall have to finish within half an hour the remaining amendments under this head.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I will not take more than three minutes.

It is well-known that the Village Self-Government Act has not yet found favour with the people. In some places the people are decidedly antagonistic to the operations of this Act. It is, therefore, necessary that the extension of the union boards should be made very cautiously and slowly. The service of the circle officers in connection with the development of the union boards is still of doubtful utility. Personally, I am not competent to give an opinion, but I have been assured by some union presidents that the interference of circle officers has not always borne good fruit in their boards, nay it has been reported to me by some responsible presidents that the tactlessness of some circle officers has been responsible for trouble with the non-co-operation movement in their areas and unnecessary unpopularity of these particular union boards. It has been said in this Council by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson that new sub-deputy collectors are not appointed as circle officers. If I am not much mistaken, I think that there are some sub-deputy collectors who have been appointed circle officers before their confirmation. They are all raw young men. They do not know how to mix with people. Well, they are sometimes tactless and I do not think that the Village Self-Government Act derives much help from such officers. Then, Sir, I find that in some districts, and particularly in my own district of Tippera, the number of sub-deputy collectors has increased to such a great extent as to draw the attention of the people. There are many sub-deputy collectors, for instance, in Comilla, who have no office of their own. They do not know where to sit. They go into the Collectorate and I have heard complaints from the Collectorate clerks that they cannot work because there are too many sub-deputy collectors who are wasting their time. Sir, at the present moment there

are so many sub-deputy collectors that the appointment of a further batch can be easily postponed for another year.

With these few words, I beg to oppose this demand.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: My ground is very nearly the same as has been urged by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. I therefore do not want to make any speech.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I simply support it. I have nothing more to say.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I propose that at least the grant may be reduced by half. My ground is practically the same as has been urged by the previous speaker. The only thing I would like to add is that the fear of taxation has made them unpopular in the mufassal. To popularise them, they should be taken in gradually. It is in this view I urge that if the whole grant cannot be refused, at least the grant may be reduced by half.

I move that the demand of Rs. 94,000 under head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 7" be reduced by Rs. 47,000.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 94,000 under head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 7" for the appointment of circle officers, be reduced by Rs. 36,900.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

Circle officers are almost unnecessary. The conduct of the majority of these officers is reprehensible, whenever they are out on tour. They depend largely on others' hospitality. My colleague, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, who hails from my district, is also of the same opinion. He has placed a very graphic picture before the House showing vividly the pernicious conduct of these circle officers. Should the Government consider it imperative that there should be such a thing as circle officers and their paraphernalia, I am afraid to depute the sub-deputy collectors on this work. I do not know what will be the fate of my motion, but, as usual, I do not see that the signs are favourable. So I implore the Government that instead of 50 circle officers, only 25 may be engaged. I would, therefore, reduce Rs. 36,900 under this head. In the Sadar subdivision of the district of Comilla, one or two clerks manage the circle officers' duties. Effective economies may be made in this manner also. I have formulated a crystallised scheme and I should like to place this before the Council. Motions Nos. 27 to 31 are for the refusal of the whole amount under this head, and No. 32 is for the reduction by Rs. 47,000. But mine is not a proposal of that nature. Arguments will be useless here. The only course left to us is to beseech the Government to accede to our prayer.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support the amendment of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta for this very patent reason which is this. The Local Self-Government Act has to be amended. It is very well-known that this piece of legislation is not popular in this country and now this sum of Rs. 94,000 is required for working this Act. Until the amendment takes place and gets the approbation of this Council, this sum of money can never be sanctioned.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I just want to point out that the Retrenchment Committee is going to sit from to-morrow. Is it desirable that we should go in for this additional expenditure at the present moment? Do the Government think that it will add to the confidence of the people in the Retrenchment Committee if, on the one hand they constitute a Retrenchment Committee and, on the other hand, go on adding to the cost of the administration. They simply make the position of the members of the Retrenchment Committee ridiculous if they are to go on like this. I cannot for one moment understand what the point is in appointing a Retrenchment Committee when they go on adding to the expenditure. This would not in my humble opinion add to the confidence of the people in the Retrenchment Committee, which is expected to do some good work for the province. I think that Government ought to consider all these matters before making a demand like this which is practically one lakh of rupees recurring expenditure. This is all I have got to submit at the present moment.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: If we want to make the union boards a success, it seems to be necessary that we must have circle officers who should be in a position to go to the people and explain matters to them. It has been said that they are mostly uncivil. This is a thing which will be found everywhere and particularly Government officials in the lower rung of the ladder are more or less uncivil, but that is a matter which can be cured. Further, it is absolutely necessary to my mind that they should be appointed so that we may make the union boards a success.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): So many as seven gentlemen have put down their names in favour of these amendments. It seems to me, Sir, that there is a very considerable amount of misapprehension on the subject, and if the House would listen to me for a few moments as to what I have got to say, I am sure the members who moved these amendment will see their way to modify their views, and I hope they will withdraw the amendments. I want to ask a simple question and it is very much upon the lines of what the last speaker has just observed. I want to ask—Do you or do you not want that these union boards should increase in number, and should

grow and multiply? This question has to be answered by putting another question which goes deeper into the matter. Do you or do you not want efficient, vigorous, and active agencies in the rural areas for village water-supply and village medical relief? Sir, we have often discussed these questions in this Council Chamber. There seems to be an unanimity of feeling that our water-supply is defective, that our medical relief needs to be improved, and I say if that is the consensus of opinion which has been heard in this Council Chamber, the Council is bound to accept the grant which the Government prays for and to reject these amendments. If you want more medical relief in the rural areas you must have these union boards. If you want your village water-supply improved you require these agencies. Inasmuch as you want them, you must establish these unions, and if you want to establish these union boards, you are bound to have these circle officers. The circle officers tour about the country and prepare the ground for the union boards. My friend, Mr. Dutt, has referred to his experience of Comilla. I bow to his experience, but I have the broader outlook and the more extended vision of the whole of Bengal. I have at my disposal information which affects not only one particular district but all the districts of Bengal. And what do I find? That in consequence of the lack of circle officers, we are not able to push on the great experiment of the institution of union boards in the mufassal. Take the case of Midnapore. We sent down a special officer to inquire into the matter of union boards in that district. The House is probably aware that these union boards have been abolished—all of them—in Midnapore. Now our special officer reported—and the District Magistrate was of the same opinion—that if we had a sufficient number of circle officers, and if they had done spade-work in anticipation, this calamity would have been averted. Indeed the villagers would have been stiffened in their resistance to the pressure of non-co-operation. That was the state of things in the Midnapore district in consequence of the absence of circle officers; in consequence of no preliminary work having been done by them, the Government had to abolish all the union boards we had in the district of Midnapore, and the result has been disastrous to the interests of that district and the cause of local self-government. Take again the case of Bakarganj. Take the case of a district, which is near to the district, of my friend, Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta, *viz.*, Chittagong. We have reports that the establishment of union boards in these districts is being delayed in consequence of the dearth of the officers; and they constitute the vital agency for ensuring medical relief and promoting water-supply in the villages. These union boards cannot indeed be established unless and until you have more circle officers than you have at present. Nor is this all. I have my own personal views about the village union boards. In the evolution of local self-government, they are bound to be the great vitalizing centres. From them will spring that civic spirit which should be diffused throughout the

length and breadth of the districts, and the cause of local self-government will then prosper. The other day we unanimously referred the Calcutta Municipal Bill to a Select Committee and that Bill represents a great advance on the system of local self-government for this city. Now, I ask members of this Council, are they going to stand in the way of the development of local self-government in the mufassal, while they are having this advanced measure in the capital of the province? It would be an act of injustice, of unfairness to our people in the mufassal. It would retard the growth of local self-government in the province. It would interfere with the development of these agencies, beneficient agencies, which will afford medical relief and supply good drinking water, the need of which was so keenly felt in the course of last summer. So, I do hope and trust that this House will not accept any of these amendments and allow this amount to stand in the supplementary budget.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion was then put, and a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhismadev.
Das Dupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
James, Mr. R. N. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. N.

Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 26 and the Noes 53, the motion was lost.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's motion was then put and lost.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motion was then put and lost.

At this stage, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq asked for a division.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: May I rise to a point of order? How can a member ask for a division after you have declared the motion as lost?

Mr. H. E. SPRY: May I ask a question? If a member stands almost alone, is he entitled to a division for the mere asking?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: There is nothing in the rules against it. What I shall do is to ask those who are in favour of Shah Sahib's motion to stand in their seats.

There being only 3 in favour of it and 24 against, the motion was ost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Many of the members have not heard what you said. Will you please say it again?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: We cannot go on in this fashion. I protest against all this. You have given us a uling. You said that those who were in favour ought to stand and nly three stood up.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May we not ask questions?

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 245 nder head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 9" for the enterainment of an additional permanent clerk on Rs. 35 in the Accounts branch of the Bankura Collectorate, be reduced by Rs. 45.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of URDWAN: The Shah Sahib has not explained why he wants to reduce ur demand for Rs. 245 by Rs. 45 and to make it Rs. 200. I must ppose the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 182 nder head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 10" for the employent of two additional peons on Rs. 13—$\frac{1}{5}$—17 each per mensem in the tamps and Accounts Department of the Dacca Collectorate be reduced y Rs. 91.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, the translation of which is as follows:—

Usually three to five peons are engaged at the rate of two annas per hour. At this rate Rs. 13 becomes the pay of a peon per month excepting the holidays. I do not think two peons are necessary at all, so I would refuse one peon's pay.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I have got one minute and within that time I hope I shall finish.

The proposal for the employment of two peons in the Stamps and Accounts Department of the Dacca Collectorate was received in November, 1921, and has been carefully examined in the Secretariat. The Collector has reported that owing to the introduction of the Circle system and the service of process through the Presidents of Unions, the number of process-serving peons in the district has been reduced from 81 to 49. It is, therefore, no longer practicable to depute from time to time for work in these two department, process-serving peons who might be waiting for their turn to go out to the mufassal for purposes of serving processes. Coolies had therefore to be employed and paid at the rate of two annas per hour, the cost of which was not less than Rs. 22-8-0, and may exceed Rs. 32-4-0 a month, when transactions in the Stamps Department are heavier. The employment of the permanent peons will greately facilitate Government work without entailing any additional cost.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The time allotted by His Excellency the Governor for the discussion of this particular demand having been exceeded, I should like to know why the demand should not lapse for want of time.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: As the time is up, I shall now put each motion formally and take the opinion of the Council on it.

The following motions were then put and lost:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: That the demand of Rs. 36,750 under head "22.—General Administration Scheme 11" for the diet allowances of witnesses attending criminal courts, be reduced by Rs. 6,750.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: That the demand of Rs. 2,700 for expenditure under head "22.—General Administration," for the purchase of a new boat for the Subdivisional Officer, Contai, be refused.

The following motion was then put:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 2,700 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 14,' for the purchase of a new boat for the Subdivisional Officer, Contai, be reduced by Rs. 2,500."

A division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Coode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 2 and the Noes 47, the motion was lost.

The following motions were then put and lost:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 8,000 for expenditure under head '22.—General Administration,' for the purchase of a sea-going boat for the Subdivisional Officer, Cox's Bazar, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 8,000 under head '22.—General Administration,' for the purchase of a new sea-going boat for the Subdivisional Officer, Cox's Bazar, be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

The undermentioned motion was then put:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 12,150 for expenditure under head '22.—General Administration,' for the supply of a suitable cutter and jolly boat for the Sunderbans Sub-Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas, be refused."

A division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. G. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Frenoh, Mr. F. C.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Coode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Prentice, Mr W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 19 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

The following motion was then put and lost:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 12,150 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 16' be reduced by Rs. 3,150."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs 1,80,582 under head '22.—General Administration' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The following motion was put and lost:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '22.—General Administration' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 1,80,582 be granted for expenditure under head "22.—General Administration" was then put and agreed to.

24.—Administration of Justice.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): I move that a sum of Rs. 80,266 be granted under head "24.—Administration of Justice."

Motions for reduction.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,050, under head '24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme I' being the provision for 10 menials at Rs. 15 each for temporarily strengthening the lower division of the ministerial establishment be reduced by Rs. 525."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 170 for the installation of a telephone in the residence of the Registrar under head "24.—Administration of Justice—4—Contingencies" be refused.

The amount we know is almost insignificant, but that is not my point. The point is whether we should provide telephone connections in the houses of our High Court Registrars. I understand that the Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta has a telephone connection at his residence, but that is maintained by his Lordship out of his own pocket. There is no reason why the Registrar of the High Court should have a telephone connection at his residence at public expense. I understand the Registrar is head of the ministerial establishment of the High Court only; that being so, I fail to understand why he should require a telephone connection at his residence at all. A connection at his office room is sufficient; what need could there for a telephone at his private residence? That is my reason for moving this motion, and I ask my friends to consider whether this grant is at all necessary.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: As regards this, the Registrar of the Original Side of the High Court does a lot of business in his private residence, and for that purpose he requires the use of a telephone. He has to communicate very frequently with the Attorneys with whom he does business, and it is necessary in the opinion of the High Court that a telephone should be at his disposal. On the Appellate Side, the Registrar is provided with a telephone, so also is the Deputy Registrar, and I believe, the Assistant Registrar. The High Court wrote to us saying that it would greatly promote the despatch of business if the Registrar of the Original Side had a telephone at his residence.

As regards the Chief Justice's telephone, I know the cost of this is borne by his Lordship personally, but we cannot expect the Registrar to pay for the telephone in his residence which is used for Government business. The Registrar has to communicate with the outside world; and the High Court consider that it is necessary for the proper discharge of business that he should have a telephone. I submit, therefore, that in a matter like this, the opinion of the High Court should be given due weight.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,250 under head "24.—Administration of Justice" for miscellaneous items of expenditure in the Appellate Side, Calcutta High Court, be refused.

Looking at the details given, we find that this sum of Rs. 8,250 is made up of a provision for wooden boards for records costing Rs. 2,000, dextrine paste and chiffen for the Record Department Rs. 500, matting for the floor of the Record Department Rs. 250, miscellaneous charge for the Record Department Rs. 500, and then the replacement of *chicks*, mats, etc., in the Court building Rs. 5,000.

The last three items, I submit, seem to me at any rate to be extremely extravagant. In the first place I do not know what this charge for paste, etc., is and why it should cost such a high figure as Rs. 500; secondly, the replacement of *chicks*, mats, etc., I should like to know what this "etcetera" means and why it should cost of such a high figure. I shall not pass my motion if the Hon'ble Member will assure me that he will see whether this item cannot be reduced. I would be quite content with a reasonable deduction.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I refer to the details given here. My information is—perhaps Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq will know if I am correct—that the *chicks* and mats for the floor in the High Court are not in proper condition and require replacing. I do not really see on what basis we are in a position to cut down this estimate, but I shall bear in mind what Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq says and we are prepared to ask the High Court to consider if any of these estimates can be reduced. Otherwise I do not think it feasible for this Council to go into details of this nature. We shall ask the High Court if they can reduce the estimates.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I fully appreciate what has been stated by the Hon'ble Member, I therefore beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 7" for the replacement of *chicks*, mats, etc., in the Court buildings, be reduced by Rs. 2,500.

He spoke in Bengali in support of his motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: We have given full details here. This is the same as the former motion; I need not say anything more.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 4,000 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 8" for furniture and office equipment, be reduced by Rs. 500.

He spoke in Bengali in support of his motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I have nothing more to add to what I have already said.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 25,000 under head '24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 9' for the upkeep of houses of detention and children's courts at Alipore, Howrah and Calcutta, be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

The following motion was deemed to be withdrawn, as the member was absent:—

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '24.—Administration of Justice' for the Juvenile Court and detention house of juvenile offenders, be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 630 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Civil and Sessions Court—Establishment—Scheme 10" for the stenographer for the District Judge of Dinajpur, be refused.

This relates to the pay of the stenographer to the District Judge of Dinajpur. In the remarks column on page 49 of the Supplementary Demand for Grants, one of the grounds shown for the need of a stenographer is to save time in writing out judgments. In this connection I beg to say that under the law, judgments must be written by the Judge himself, except otherwise expressly provided by the law which enjoined it. Moreover, the District and Sessions Judges are not the same hard worked officers as they were, and it would be merely luxury

to provide them with a stenographer. Moreover, there are things which should not be left to a stenographer, and I object to it on principle. I suggest its refusal.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to support the motion that has been moved by Raja Maniloll Singh Roy that the demand of Rs. 630 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Civil and Sessions Courts" for the stenographer for the District Judge of Dinajpur be refused.

I do not understand why certain Judges should require stenographers for their help. They can write judgments just as well and much more quickly themselves. The way in which the stenographers take down the judgments of the Judge especially in the mufassal, where you cannot get such expert stenographers as we have got here in the Legislative Council, must be unsatisfactory; in fact, they must take more time in taking down the judgments than would have been the case, had the Judge himself had written the judgments.

Then, I believe the Additional Judges and the Subordinate Judges are more hardworked than the Sessions Judges, and if they can manage without stenographers, it is absolutely unreasonable to think that the Sessions Judges should require the help of stenographers. Formerly District Magistrates had no stenographers. Now they have all got stenographers, who glory in the name of confidential clerks. Formerly when people addressed letters to District Magistrates, they replied with their own hands, but now, it is the confidential clerks who type the letters. The meaning is perfectly clear. Officers are getting indolent. I do not know if it is the effect of the hot climate, but we cannot allow our officers to come into the category of lotus-eaters.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 630 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 10" be refused.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

This expenditure is absolutely unnecessary, and I am sorry to say that these unnecessary expenses are converting the granaries of Bengal into the resting places of dead bodies. The District Judges had no stenographers at any time. But now luxury demands this. Why, the District Judges, if they are so minded can very well get on without stenographers. If the District Judge of Dinajpur is provided with a shorthand typist, the result will be that others will come on and gradually get theirs sanctioned too.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Raja Maniloll Singh Roy raises a question of law and thinks that it is against the law for District and Sessions Judges to dictate their judgments. I must say that I am rather surprised to hear this statement. If that were the law, as the Raja

suggests, then I am afraid many a judgment dictated to stenographers must be declared to be void. I should say on the contrary that it is really the intention of the law that as soon as Judges have heard the arguments they should promptly deliver their judgments and they can best do so with the help of stenographers. It is my experience, and it is the experience of most men who had to deal with courts of law that a Judge can promptly get through his business if he has a stenographer to take down his judgment. I think it is a defect in our judicial arrangement that all our District Judges are not provided with stenographers. I have experience of another Presidency where selected subordinate judges and even munsifs are provided with stenographers. (A voice: "Where is it?") In Madras. That I think is a move in the right direction and we ought to encourage the system in Bengal Except two or three District and Sessions Judges, all the others are provided with stenographers and I do not really understand the argument that the provision of stenographers will tend to make the Judges lazy. He has to sit the whole day in Court and if he has a shorthand writer to take down his judgments, surely he would get through his work quicker than if he were to write out his judgments himself on the bench. I can assure the Council that the writing out of judgments in Court would occupy a fair proportion of time of the Court. Many questions can be disposed of at once by a few words dictated to a stenographer. I would strongly urge this point of view on the consideration of the Council.

Raja Maniloll Singh Roy's motion was then put and a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Das, Mr. S. R.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Chatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Coode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Sinha, Bábu Surendra Narayan.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 15 and the Noes 40, the motion was lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 630 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Civil and Sessions Judges—Scheme 11" for the stenographer for the District Judge of Jessore be refused.

I do not think that I need add anything more to what I have already said. I may, however, submit that the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Bengal is reported to have said that stenographers cannot take down law points. They do not know enough law to be able to report law points correctly.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: I object to this statement. How does the member know that the Hon'ble the Chief Justice has said that stenographers cannot take down law points?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: It was reported in the newspapers that the Chief Justice had said that stenographers cannot take down law points as the Judge himself would wish it. Moreover, in the mufassal for Rs. 630 we cannot get a good stenographer. If we want to have a capable stenographer like the ones we have in this Council, we shall want at least Rs. 3,000 a year. I am afraid, therefore, that if we allow this grant this year, we shall be confronted next year with a further grant of Rs. 2,000 for each stenographer for each Additional District Judge. So I would ask the Council to nip the thing in the bud now.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 630 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 11" be refused.

The mover addressed the Council in Bengali in support of the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I do not think that I can add to what I have already said. I submit that there is a necessity for entertaining these stenographers and that we ought to encourage the practice of dictating judgments.

The motion was then put and lost.

On the Deputy-President explaining to Shah Syed Emdadul Haq that Motion No. 66 was on the same footing as No. 36 (General Administration) relating to the diet allowances of witnesses, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq withdrew, with the leave of the Council, the following motion:—

"That the demand of Rs. 10,880 under head '24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 12' be reduced by Rs. 550."

The following motion of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for expenditure under head '24.—Administration of Justice' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 80,266 be granted under head "24.—Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

25.—Jails and Convict Settlements.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): I move that a sum of Rs. 12,340 be granted under head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

The following motions standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,500 under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements—Scheme 1' be reduced by Rs. 795."

"That the demand of Rs. 3,500 under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements—Scheme 2' be refused."

The following motions standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutt were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements—Scheme 3' for revised scale of pay allowed to whole-time medical subordinates attached to Jail hospitals be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

"That the demand of Rs. 340 under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements—Scheme 4' for the revision of pay of the teaching staff of the Juvenile Jail, be reduced by Rs. 200."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for expenditure under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements' be refused."

The orginal demand that a sum of Rs. 12,340 be granted under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements' was then put and agreed to.

The Allocation of Business.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Order! order! A petition was presented to His Excellency the Governor, and this is the reply which His Excellency has sent to me:—

"The allocation of business is decided at the beginning of each session and the days set apart for private business are fixed by me at

such a number as in my judgment represents a fair and reasonable proportion of the whole time of the session. All the remaining days are reserved for Government business, and so long as time is apportioned on this principle, each day must be reserved for the business allotted to it. The amount of time allowed for private business cannot be increased by admitting such business in the unutilised portion of the day reserved for Government business. The members of the Government on whom a great strain is imposed by the large number of questions and resolutions put down by private members have to prepare their work in accordance with a time table fixed at the beginning of the session, and it would not be fair to require them at the end of the day set apart for Government business, unexpectedly and without previous notice, to deal with resolutions moved by private members."

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Monday, the 10th July, 1922, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 10th July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 98 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Revision of the curricula of studies.

***LX. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education considering the desirability of taking early steps in consultation with the University of Calcutta and the Text-book Committee for revising the curricula of studies for the different examinations with a view to their improvement?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): The question is too vague for a definite reply. The curricula of the secondary and higher courses are fixed by the University. As for the rest, the syllabus for primary schools has recently been revised and that of the "B" final course is under revision. No further action is contemplated at present.

Simplicity and discipline amongst students.

***LXI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education been drawn to the desirability of fostering in students, while in hostels and boarding houses, a habit of simplicity and well-disciplined behaviour, suited to their respective positions in life?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education considering the desirability of appointing suitable whole-time superintendents of hostels and boarding institutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Though I have not had my attention drawn to the questions specially, I have long been of opinion that simplicity and discipline are essential parts of education.

(*b*) No. It is the policy of Government to appoint Resident Superintendents from the staffs of the Colleges and Schools to which the hostels and boarding houses are attached as they bring to their duties the influence of their position, a power of control and tact which are not likely to be found in Superintendents appointed on any other system.

Members of Council as non-official visitors of Jails.

***LXII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether effect has, in any case, been given to the resolution of this Council with regard to the appointment of the members of this Council, as "non-official visitors" of Jails in the mufassal, which resolution he was pleased to accept on the 23rd of February last on behalf of the Government?

(*b*) If so, where and in how many cases has effect been given?

(*c*) If no effect has yet been given, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Separate action has not been taken by this Government on the recommendations contained in the resolution referred to but they have been considered in connection with the revision of the Jail Code rules relating to the appointment and duties of visitors in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jail Committee. The following rule will be published shortly:—

"Members of the Legislative Council shall also be appointed as non-official visitors, two for each central or district jail, and one for each sub-jail of their constituency or within the district in which they ordinarily reside. If the number of members exceeds the number thus required, members shall be appointed in rotation for such periods as may be convenient. The appointments shall be made by the Commissioners of Divisions and notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*. When any such visitor ceases to be a member of the Legislative Council he shall thereby cease to be a visitor."

After publication, this rule will be carried into effect generally in the jails to which it is applicable. As regards political prisoners the whole question of their treatment in prison is now under consideraton of the Government.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member kindly explain the meaning of the word "generally" in the last part of his reply?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: It means with reference to all prisoners, this rule will be carried into effect. As regards political prisoners, the whole question is under consideration.

Non-payment of salaries to professorial staffs of the Law College, Calcutta.

***LXIII. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the professorial staffs of the University Law College and the Postgraduate Department have not received their salaries for the months of April and May, 1922?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state when the said salaries will be paid and what steps, if any, will be taken to prevent delays in future in the payment of salaries?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) The Government had no official information or knowledge on the point, but since receiving notice of the question the University has informed Government that the salaries for April have been paid in some cases but those for May have not been paid at all.

(*b*) Government have very recently been informed by the Calcutta University that salaries are being paid as money is coming in.

Revision of salaries of the ministerial officers.

***LXIV. Mr. K. C. M. FAROQUI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it has been decided to give effect to the recommendations contained in the majority report of the Ministerial Officers Salaries' Committee or those in the minority report which have been accepted by this Council in its Resolution No 26, dated the 5th September, 1921?

(*b*) If the former, on what grounds has the resolution of the Council been voted?

(*c*) Does the percentage of increase on the total cost as proposed in the minority report exceed that allowed to the members of other services?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when Government contemplate giving effect to the proposed revision of pay and from what date?

(*e*) Will effect be given to it retrospectively from 1st April, 1921, as in other services, and as already provided for in the last year's budget?

(*f*) Are the Government aware of the wide-spread discontent amongst the members of the ministerial service caused by the delay in revising their salaries?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): (*a*) and (*b*) Government have been unable to accept in their entirety the recommendations of either report. In framing their proposals to the Government of India, the local Government gave due weight to the Council resolution of the 5th September, 1921. Generally, however, they have been unable to accept it on the following grounds:—

(*1*) The great cost involved in giving effect to the proposals of the minority report as compared with the majority.

(*2*) The fact that the minority report is based on an inaccurate and excessive estimate of the increased cost of living, while the majority report was framed on the most accurate information available.

(*3*) The minority report ignores the effect on the pay of ministerial officers of their being allowed to count past service for increment in the new time-scales.

(*c*) As the increase involved in the minority report is approximately 78 per cent. the answer is generally speaking, yes.

(*d*) It is proposed to give effect to the revision from the 1st January, 1922.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Representations to this effect have been received. It is hoped to issue final orders giving effect to the revision at an early date.

Admission of Muhammadan girls into the Bethune Collegiate School.

***LXV. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is correct that recently Muhammadan girls were refused admission into the Bethune Collegiate School in Calcutta?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the grounds on which such admission was refused?

(*c*) If there be any rule of the institution prohibiting such admission of Muhammadan students, are the Government considering the desirability of withdrawing or abolishing the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are advised that in terms of the deed of conveyance executed by the late Hon'ble J. E. D. Bethune and the late Babu Dakshina Ranjan Mukharji, by which the properties of the Bethune Collegiate School were transferred to Government, non-Hindu girls are not entitled to admission into the school. The disability, however, does not apply to the college.

(*c*) The disability not being due to any rule framed by Government, it is not possible to withdraw it.

Dacoity in the district of Midnapore.

***LXVI. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that during the last few months there have occurred several cases of serious dacoity in the district of Midnapore?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number of such dacoities during the last year?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that a panic has overtaken the people as a result of these dacoities which are attended sometimes with murder and other violent means?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state the causes of these dacoities and their character and also the steps, if any, which the Government have taken to put a stop to them?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) This year up to the 21st June, 109 cases of dacoity occurred, of which four were attended with murder and one with severe assault. In 1921, there were 94 cases of dacoity, four being with murder.

(*d*) To a great extent the non-co-operation movement has been the cause of the increase by spreading contempt for lawful authority, dislocating the chaukidari administration and diverting the energies of the regular and rural police from their preventive duties and the surveillance of criminals. Preventive measures against certain gangs have been taken by means of extensive armed patrols under the personal supervision of 3 Assistant Superintendents of Police. On the 4th February, 1922, an armed patrol came upon a party of dacoits committing highway robbery. Two of the dacoits, one of whom was armed with a sword, attacked a constable who fired in self-defence, killing both men. They were subsequently identified as the notorious leader of a large gang and his chief lieutenant. Action under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code and also under the Criminal Tribes Act is being taken against others. As a result of investigation into certain cases, useful information has recently been obtained and numerous arrests made. It is reported that since these captures the situation has improved. A detective department for the district has also been sanctioned recently.

Withdrawal of orders issued under the Criminal Law Amendment Acts and the number of persons arrested, etc., under those Acts.

***LXVII. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of withdrawing the various orders issued since the 17th November last, declaring

different associations unlawful as well as the orders of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, prohibiting public meetings and processions in Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state separately the number of persons hitherto—

(*i*) arrested,

(*ii*) sentenced, and

(*iii*) released after being convicted and sentenced in Calcutta and other parts of Bengal since the 17th November for defying the orders referred to in (*a*)?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) The orders of the Commissioner of Police referred to are no longer in force. As regards the other orders, Government are watching the situation.

(*b*) A statement showing the total number of persons arrested, convicted, etc., is laid on the table. The figures for Calcutta include cases in which the orders of the Commissioner of Police prohibiting meetings and processions were defied.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. LXVII showing number of persons arrested under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act including number convicted, discharged or released by Government during the period from the 18th November, 1921, to 30th May, 1922.

—	Number arrested.	Number discharged.	Number convicted.	Number released* by Government.	Number whose sentences have been reduced.
Calcutta ...	6,551	968	3,132	1,969†	831
Faridpur ...	653	119	436	227	...
Bakarganj ...	124	17	73	1	...
Mymensingh ...	343	41	200	17	4
Dacca ...	528	59	345	81	...
Howrah ...	282	6	260	3	...
Birbhum ...	10	5	4	...	...
Burdwan ...	64	1	...	18	...

* These figures do not include case of release on expiry of sentence.

† All juvenile prisoners under the age of 16 years were also released from Alipore and Presidency jails. Their number is not known.

—	Number arrested.	Number discharged.	Number convicted.	Number released* by Government.	Number whose sentences have been reduced.
Midnapore ...	24	3	17	...	...
Bogra ...	137	7	64	...	...
Dinajpur ...	2	...	...	...	...
Rangpur ...	336	33	296	11	...
Pabna ...	147	16	...	2	...
24-Parganas ...	202	35	52	...	...
Jessore ...	10	3	5	...	...
Nadia ...	124	7	68	7	...
Chittagong ...	672	101	527	69	...
Tippera ...	52	19	7	2	...
Noakhali ...	68	5	4	2	...
Jalpaiguri ...	103	2	2	...	...
Hooghly ...	...	...	...	17†	...
Rajshahi ...	10	...	7	...	...

* These figures do not include cases of release on expiry of sentence.
† Transferred from Calcutta and other jails.

Interviews allowed to special class prisoners.

*LXVIII. **Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that until recently special class prisoners were allowed interviews in the rooms either of the Jail Superintendent or the Jailor of the Alipore Central Jail?

(*b*) Is it a fact that recently the Jail Superintendent of the Alipore Central Jail has ordered these prisoners to have their interviews in what is regarded as a "cage" by such prisoners?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the prisoners have declined to have interviews with anyone under these conditions?

(*d*) Are the Government taking any steps to remove these conditions?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under the consideration of Government

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this recent departure, evidently made by the present Jail Superintendent in the case of ordinary special class prisoners like Mr. Sasmal, Mr. J. L. Banarji, Maulvi Azad and others to have interviews in what is regarded as a cage?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I must have notice of that question.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is it a fact that owing to the enforcement of this system of interview in a cage, *pardanashin* ladies, like the wife of Hakim Masibur Rahaman, are unable to interview their relatives in jail?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I must ask for notice.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is it a fact that Mr. C. R. Das recently brought to the notice of the Hon'ble the Member the humiliation of this "cage" interview?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I do not understand this question. I have received no petition to the effect.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is it a fact that Mr. C. R. Das personally brought this to the notice of the Hon'ble the Member when he recently visited the jail? My question does not refer to a petition, but to the personal representation made by Mr. C. R. Das.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I cannot remember exactly, but I think he did say something about it.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Did the Hon'ble the Member suggest any remedy to Mr. C. R. Das or have any orders been passed by the Hon'ble the Member?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: No.

Use of newspapers by special class prisoners.

***LXIX. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether special class prisoners are allowed the use of any newspapers? If so, the date on which such permission was given?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the prisoners have to pay for such newspapers?

(*c*) Is it a fact that such prisoners are not allowed the use of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Servant*, the *Muhammadi*, the *Jamana* and other *like* papers?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for the prohibition of these papers?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a list of newspapers allowed to the special class prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail and elsewhere for which the prisoners have to pay?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) and (*b*) With the consent of the Superintendent they may be allowed newspapers provided at their own expense and approved by the Superintendent. The order was issued on the 15th April last.

(*c*) It is understood that these papers are generally disallowed by Superintendents.

(*d*) Because it was considered desirable to exclude literature which might tend to encourage or strengthen those political opinions and sentiments which led many of these prisoners to transgress the law.

(*e*) No list has been prepared. The question of the continuance of this privilege is under reconsideration.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: With reference to answer (*d*), does the Hon'ble the Member suggest that newspapers like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the *Servant* are excluded as they might tend to encourage or strengthen the political opinions and sentiments of men like Mr. C. R. Das, Mr. Shyam Sundar Chakravarti and others?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The answer is quite clear.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that there is in the Alipore Central Jail a list of newspapers allowed to prisoners and that this list contains such orthodox newspapers only as the *Englishman*, the *Statesman*, etc., and does not contain the names of papers like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Servant*, the *Nayak*, etc.?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I must have notice of this question.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: With reference to answer (*e*), does the Hon'ble the Member in declaring that the question of the continuance of this privilege is under reconsideration, imply that the question of withdrawal of this privilege is contemplated?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I cannot give any further information on this point.

Recommendations of Sadler Commission.

***LXX. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education proposing to carry out any of the recommendations of the Sadler Commission in the near future?

(*b*) If so, to which of them is effect to be given?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) In view of the financial position of the province it is not possible to give effect to the recommendations of the Sadler Commission's report; but in order to remedy, so far as possible, some of the defects pointed out in that report Government is preparing a Bill for the establishment of a Board for Secondary Education and another for the reconstitution of the Calcutta University.

(*b*) So long as the proposals of Government referred to in clause (*a*) are not finally accepted, it is not convenient to take up the minor recommendations.

Improved types of "guru" training schools for Eastern Bengal undergraduates.

***LXXI. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the objects of the *guru* training schools, normal schools and first grade training schools, respectively;

(*ii*) what are the entrance qualifications of candidates for admission into these schools;

(*iii*) how many improved types of *guru* training schools are there in this Presidency and what special purpose do they serve; and

(*iv*) whether there is any special provision for the training of Matriculates and failed I. A. and I. Sc. students?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iv*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of raising the status of the Normal Schools so that such candidates may be trained?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making arrangements for the training of the undergraduates in one of the two existing Normal Schools in Chittagong and Dacca in Eastern Bengal?

(*d*) Is it correct that the L. T. classes in the Dacca Training College have been practically abolished?

(*e*) If so, what arrangement, if any, is it proposed to make for the training of the undergraduates of Eastern Bengal?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of amalgamating the Normal and improved types of *guru* training schools in the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) *Guru* training schools exist to train *gurus* for primary schools. Normal schools (sometimes called first Grade Training Schools) train vernacular teachers for Secondary Schools.

(*ii*) *For Guru-Training Schools.*—Old type—lower primary and upper primary standards—improved type: middle vernacular or English standard.

For Normal Schools.—Middle vernacular or English standard.

(*iii*) Twenty-two. These schools have many points of advantage over the old type, *e.g.*, larger and better qualified staffs: 40 students (instead of 20): better accommodation and equipment: a one-year course (instead of 2). They thus train more students and train them better than the old.

(*iv*) (*b*) (*c*) No special provision obtains but a proposal for admitting them to Normal Schools is under consideration. Those who have passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts or Science can be admitted to the Dacca Training College.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) These institutions have different functions, and amalgamation is not contemplated.

Revision of salaries of the ministerial officers.

***LXXII. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the total sum in the shape of increments, which has been granted to officers, clerks and menials of the Bengal Government separately during the last two years?

(*b*) When are the Government going to give effect to the recommendations regarding the ministerial services made by the Council and by the McAlpin Committee?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) The information asked for is not on record, and in the opinion of Government, the time and labour involved in obtaining it would be out of all proportion to its usefulness when obtained.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answers to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) of a starred question on the same subject by Mr. K. G. M. Faroqui at this meeting.

Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur: Will the ministerial officers be allowed to draw this increased salary before the 31st of July?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I cannot say. We hope to get the orders out very shortly, but whether the Accountant-General will be able to get the orders issued in time is more than I can say. I hope that it will be possible to do so.

Effect of certain circular of the Director of Public Instruction on certain officers of the Education Department.

***LXXIII. Babu JOGESH CHANDRA SARKAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that, in view of the circular of the Director of Public Instruction instructing the divisional inspectors of schools to make appointments commensurate with the proportion of Muhammadan population in their divisions, highly qualified Hindu officers, whose names have found places in the nominal rolls framed by the Director of Public Instruction in accordance with paragraph 8 of Government Resolution No. 464 Edn., dated the 3rd March, 1922, and who have been officiating for 2 or 3 years in their present appointments, which have now become permanently vacant in consequence of the confirmation of the permanent incumbents in other appointments, are likely to be thrown out of employment?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking up this matter immediately, and seeing whether there is any imminent apprehension of failure of justice in any division or divisions owing to the misinterpretation of the circular in question?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Under the standing orders of Government a certain percentage of appointments, permanent or likely to be made permanent, in the Education Department are to go to Muhammadans. It is true that there are well-qualified Hindu officers who have been officiating for some time and are likely not to be confirmed if the Government orders were followed. Similarly there are well qualified Muhammadans in the same difficult position. The embarrassment in the former case is due to the ignoring of the orders of Government in making temporary appointments. The appointing authorities have appointed others than Muhammadans to temporary vacancies, where, according to Government orders, Muhammadans should have been appointed.

(*b*) The question is engaging the attention of Government and in deciding it Government will bear in mind that no injustice is done to either Hindu or Muhammadan officers who have been officiating for a long time.

Grants to Calcutta University for post-graduate teaching.

***LXXIV. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is proposed to make further grants to the University of Calcutta for maintaining the post-graduate teaching in Science?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The Government have not received any application from the Calcutta University in which the University after setting out their income and expenditure for the post-graduate

classes asked for any specific grant for continuing the post-graduate classes on their existing basis. Government therefore had no opportunity to consider the question on proper materials.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: Is it customary for the University to submit applications for such grants to Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The Calcutta University has come under the Government of Bengal only this year. Our practice is that whoever asks for any grant must submit an application. I do not know what the fact was with the Government of India.

Headquarters of Members and allowances drawn.

***LXXV. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of travelling and residential allowance drawn by each member of the Bengal Legislative Council and the headquarters from which such travelling allowances have been charged?

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. LXXV, showing the amount of travelling allowance and residential allowance drawn by each member of the Bengal Legislative Council and the headquarters from which such travelling allowances have been drawn, from January, 1921, to 30th June, 1922.

Names.	Headquarters.	Amount drawn.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
.fzal, Nawabzada K. M. Khan Bahadur.	Dacca ...	4,154	11	0
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.	Rajshahi ...	3,727	2	0
.hmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.	Pabna ...	2,799	12	0
.hmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin ...	Gulshakhali ...	3,099	8	0
.hmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin ...	Jessore ...	1,556	8	0

Names.	Headquarters.	Amount drawn.
		Rs. A. P.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin ...	Dinajpur ...	4,463 14 0
Ahmed, Mr. M.	Kartickpur ...	2,207 3 6
Ahmed, Munshi Jaffar	Noakhali ...	3,118 15 6
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan	Hooghly ...	2,385 8 0
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim*	.....	216 0 0
Ali, Munshi Amir	Chittagong ...	2,913 11 6
Ali, Munshi Ayub	Chittagong ...	2,930 15 6
Aly, Maulvi Saiyid Hossain† ...	Barisal ...	659 8 0
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar ...	Tangail ...	2,911 4 0
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.	Dacca ...	2,815 4 0
Banarjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.	Birbhum ...	1,239 9 0
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M B E. ...	Rangpur ...	3,318 14 0
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra ...	Dharampur ...	3,212 11 0
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan ...	Rajshahi ...	3,393 13 6
Chaudhuri. Babu Tankanath ...	Moldawar ...	2,134 6 0
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.	Bogra ...	3,169 4 0
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.	Malda ...	1,850 10 0
Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh, Kt.* ...	.....	283 14 0
Das, Babu Bhishmadev ...	Bhanga ...	4,551 8 0
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.	Barisal ...	2,695 10 0
DeLiale, Mr. J. A.† ... ...,	Narayangunj ...	838 0 0
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal, M.B.E.	Dacca ...	1,898 10 0
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan ...	Chittagong ...	2,563 8 0

* These members do not draw regularly their travelling allowance and residential allowance; the figures shown are the charges for attending Standing Committee meetings outside Calcutta.

† These members were elected in the year 1922.

Names.	Headquarters.	Amount drawn.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan ...	Comilla ...	1,860	2	6
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M. ...	Comilla ...	2,434	4	6
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani ...	Malda ...	1,121	4	0
Ghoze, Mr. D. C.*	.....	341	14	0
Huq, Shah Syed Emdadul ...	Comilla ...	2,320	6	6
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul	Barhampur ...	2,777	1	0
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammad Madassur	Rampurhat ...	1,949	6	0
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra ...	Midnapore ...	611	0	0
Karim, Maulvi Abdul	Faridpur ...	1,931	14	0
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal	Patuakhali ...	2,428	0	0
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal ...	Midnapore ...	786	0	0
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din ...	Gaibandha ...	3,282	14	0
Khan, Maulvi Muhammad Rafique Uddin.	Jamalpur ...	4,155	0	0
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman ...	Balia	2,570	14	6
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.	Natore	2,467	0	0
Makramali, Munshi	Noakhali ...	3,070	3	0
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath* ...	.....	214	14	0
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.	Hooghly ...	1,186	4	0
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath* ...	.....	223	14	0
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra ...	Hooghly ...	641	0	0
Mukharji, Professor S. C. ...	Serampore ...	847	10	0
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra ...	Tamluk ...	1,390	12	0
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary ...	Khulna ..	2,524	12	0
Pahlowan, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar.	Chinaduli ...	3,813	4	6

* These members do not draw regularly their travelling allowance and residential allowance; the figures shown are the charges for attending Standing Committee meetings outside Calcutta.

Names.	Headquarters.	Amount drawn.
		Rs. A. P.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur. ...	Rangpur ...	2,995 8 0
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath* ...	.....	338 14 0
Ray, Kumar Sahib Shekhareswar ...	Tahirpur ...	2,842 14 0
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal ...	Chittagong ...	1,871 14 0
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor	Gouripur ...	1,477 14 0
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra...	Chandernagore ...	1,193 8 0
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath	Santosh ...	2,211 4 0
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra ...	Noakhali ...	3,364 15 6
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna ...	Domesha ...	2,284 12 0
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath ...	Amrigola ...	1,892 6 0
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath	Jessore ...	2,085 2 0
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.	Nadia ...	1,603 12 0
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh ...	Chakdighi ...	1,324 6 0
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh...	Chakdighi ..	1,612 10 0
Roy, Raja Moniloll Singh, C.I.E. ...	Chakdighi ...	1,964 13 0
Roy, Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath ...	Khulna ...	990 0 0
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra ...	Rangpur ...	3,511 9 0
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan ...	Nehalia ...	1,752 14 0
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan ...	Midnapore ...	1,470 14 0
Travers, Mr. W. L., O.B.E. ...	Jalpriguri ...	946 8 8

* This member does not draw regularly his travelling allowance and residential allowance; the figures shown are the charges for attending Standing Committee meetings outside Calcutta.

Calcutta University Post-graduate Course.

*LXXVI. **Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is correct that the University of Calcutta has run into a deficit in the maintenance of the post-graduate classes?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount of the deficit?

(c) Is it correct that the University has on several occasions sent representations to the Government for a grant to pay off its deficit?

(d) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken on those representations?

(e) Is it not correct that the University has to spend a large sum for the post-graduate class, both in Arts and Science, and that the recurring grant in this direction is comparatively small?

(f) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of increasing this grant-in-aid so as to help the University in maintaining the post-graduate classes?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (a) and (b) Government has no definte official information about the actual deficit, but on an examination of the draft budget estimates of the Calcutta University for the year 1921-22, it appears that there is an estimated deficit of Rs. 23,200 in the post-graduate teaching in Arts and Science.

(c) The University has on no occasion sent any representation to Government to pay off the deficit in the post-graduate teaching, but the University on two occasions brought to the notice of Government that there was a general deficit.

(d) A sum of Rs. 2,50,000 has been provided in the supplementary budget.

(e) Yes; but the local Government has had no opportunity yet to examine the question.

(f) The University has not submitted yet any definite representation for increasing the grant-in-aid for the maintenance of the post-graduate classes, but if any such application is made, Government will give a sympathetic consideration to it on its merits.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Increment of charges declared by the Bengal Telephone Company.

116. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce been drawn to the increase of charges as declared by the Bengal Telephone Company for the telephone service in Calcutta?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the increased charges will affect the trade and commerce of Calcutta?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps that the said charges may be reduced?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): (*a*) Government are aware of the recent increase in the charges referred to.

(*b*) Yes, but with the increased rates, it is expected there will be a commensurate improvement in service and increased public convenience.

(*c*) No. Telephones are a central subject and the rates in question are in accordance with the terms of the contract between the Secretary of State and the Company.

Filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Educational Service.

117. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is correct that in no other graded service under the Government than in the Subordinate Educational Service the vacancies in the grades are filled up by the meu recruited from outside services?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the protest made by the "All Bengal Government School Teachers Association" against the above procedure adopted by the Director of Public Instruction in filling up the vacancies in the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement in a tabulated form showing—

(*i*) the names of the persons other than those in the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service who have been placed in the Subordinate Educational Service grades vacancies as shown in the list of 1st July, 1921;

(*ii*) the dates of their appointments in the vacancies; and

(*iii*) their academical qualifications and their previous pay if in Government service?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) I am not in a position to say what the practice is in other services. In the Subordinate Educational Service prior to the recent Reorganisation the practice was to fill vacancies in intermediate grades ordinarily by promotion from lower grades, but sometimes by promotion of officers from outside the graded services and in rare cases by direct appointment. The explanation is to be found in (1) the inclusion in the Subordinate Educational Service of many classes of appointments, *e.g.*, school teachers of different kinds, college lecturers and demonstrators, laboratory assistants, teachers in technical institutions, clerks with different duties and requiring different qualifications and initial rates of pay, and (2) the existence of appointments outside the graded services, with duties and responsibilities similar to those of appointments in the graded services.

(*b*) The conference held at Dacca in December, 1921, before the Reorganisation orders were issued, passed a resolution against the recruitment of outsiders as teachers in the higher grades of the Subordinate Educational Service as the Subordinate Educational Service was then constituted, rare instances of such promotion were unavoidable.

(*c*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) Maulvi Zeqrutullah Ahmed, 2nd clerk, Office of Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division. Promoted to class VII of the Subordinate Educational Service (Rs. 60), from 6th May, 1921. Passed Matriculation and has a knowledge of typewriting, was on Rs. 50 outside the grades from 1st January, 1919.

Babu Priya Lal Guha, Assistant Master, Jhalakati High School. Promoted to class VII of the Subordinate Educational Service from 1st July, 1921. Passed B.Sc., was on Rs. 50 outside the grades from 29th April, 1919.

Vacancies in the Subordinate Educational Service.

118. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is not correct that the Subordinate Educational Service list, corrected up to the 1st of July, 1921, correctly shows the number of vacancies in the different grades?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of the vacancies that occurred in each of the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service up to the 1st of September, 1921;

(*ii*) the number of vacancies filled up, grade by grade, till the 31st of August, 1921, by—

(*1*) natural promotions from the lower grades in the Subordinate Educational Service,

(*2*) special promotions from the lower grades,

(*3*) new appointments from outside, and

(*4*) inclusion of officers outside the grades?

(*c*) Are there any vacancies in the Subordinate Educational Service grades, as shown in the list of the 1st July, 1921, not yet filled up by promotion up to the 31st August, last?

(*d*) How do the Government propose utilising the money saved from withholding the promotions of many officers in the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service from the 1st April, to the 31st of August, 1921?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not correcting the reduced actuarial scale of the gradings of the Subordinate Educational Service even before the new organisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes, but the vacancies in Grades I to VII shown in the Subordinate Educational Service list, corrected to 1st July, 1921, included posts held by officers transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Industries from 16th October, 1920: they were thus shown, pending their formal transfer to that Department with retrospective effect from 16th October, 1920; they were never available for the Education Department. Every vacancy utilisable by the Education Department was filled up to 31st August, 1921, and the Reorganization scales were put into effect on this basis.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) and (*d*) There are no such vacancies. All promotions due to officers of the Subordinate Educational Service between 1st April, 1921, and 31st August, 1921, were made, and no savings accrued.

(*e*) No recommendation for the modification of the grading of the Subordinate Educational Service was included in the recommendations on which the Reorganization was based, and any attempt at such modification, would have necessitated a long postponement of the Reorganization.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 118, showing the number of vacancies that occurred in each of the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service up to the 1st September, 1921, and the number of vacancies filled up, grade by grade, till the 31st August, 1921.

Number of vacancies that occurred between the date of the previous promotion list and 31st August, 1921.	By grade promotion and confirmation.	By special promotion.	By new appointment.	By promotion of officers outside the Subordinate Educational Service.
Class I—5 ...	4	...	1*	...
Class II—7 ...	6	1†	...	...
Class III—14 ...	14	...	...	...
Class IV—16 ...	8	1‡	7§	...
Class V—10 ...	10	...	...	...
Class VI—19 ...	19	...	...	...
Class VII—27 ...	25	...	...	2

* Assistant Master, Victoria School, Kurseong.

† Really a readjustment of position.

‡ An Assistant Master promoted to a lectureship in Calcutta Madrassah.

§ Lecturers, Dacca Intermediate College.

Urdu and Hindi speaking Interpreter for the Police Court.

119. Mr. S. MAHBOOB ALEY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that there are no Interpreters in the Calcutta Police Courts conversant with the Hindi and Urdu languages and that a very considerable number of the witnesses and accused persons appearing before those Courts use the Hindi and Urdu languages as their mother-tongue?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to remedy the defect?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) None of the Interpreters of the Police Courts has passed any examination in Hindi or Urdu. All the Interpreters are, however, able to translate Hindi or Urdu and Bengali sufficiently well enough to enable them to do the work efficiently.

(*b*) The point raised will be taken into consideration when such appointments are made in the future.

Revision of the salaries of the Ministerial officers.

120. Munshi AYUB ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State has been obtained on the proposals for the revision of the salaries of the Ministerial Officers?

(*b*) If not, are the Government in a position to state the reason for the delay?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of giving retrospective effect to the revision of the ministerial officers' pay as was done in the case of certain higher services?

(*d*) Have the Government of Bengal recommended the acceptance of the proposals in the Minority Report of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee as recommended by the Council?

(*e*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how is it, in their recommendations, proposed that effect should be given to the resolution of this Council?

(*f*) Is it a fact that—

(*i*) provision was made in the last year's budget for this purpose;

(*ii*) the Director of Information announced that effect would be given to it early in 1921; and

(*iii*) it was contemplated that effect would be given from the 1st April, 1921?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) and (*b*) The orders of the Government of India have recently been received on the local Government's proposals for the revision of pay of all ministerial officers.

(*c*) It is proposed to give effect to the revision from the 1st January, 1922.

(*d*) The member is referred to the answer given to a starred question on the subject put by Mr. K. G. M. Faroqui, at this meeting.

(*e*) The local Government are unable to disclose their recommendations to the Government of India, but it is hoped to issue orders at an early date.

(*f*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No. The Director of Information's announcement was as follows:—

"Although the report of the committee need not be submitted until the 31st March, 1921, budget provision will be made before that date for a lump sum for the improvement of the pay of the ministerial staff and menials in this province."

The budget provision referred to was to be made in the budget for 1921-22, and this was done.

(*iii*) This was hoped at one time, but the delay and the financial stringency made it impossible.

Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

121. Khan Bahadur Maulvi HAFIZAR RAHMAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:—

(*i*) the number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Presidency;

(*ii*) the number of them paid—

(*1*) by the Government; and

(*2*) from the contributions from local funds;

(*iii*) the rates of contributions from the local funds for the two classes;

(*iv*) the extra amount, if any, paid by the Government for those two classes of medical officers; and

(*v*) the amount of savings, if any, from the contributions paid by local bodies for these officers?

(*b*) Do the officers, paid from the local contributions, examine, and give evidence in, medico-legal cases?

(*c*) Have they got to attend all Government servants and hostels attached to the Government schools and colleges in addition to their local hospital duties?

(*d*) Do they work for the Civil Surgeons in their absence from the headquarters?

(*e*) Do the Government pay any contributions to the local bodies for the extra work done for the Government by these officers?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) (*i*)

Civil Assistant Surgeons, including reserve at 20 per cent ...	164
Sub-Assistant Surgeons, including reserve at 25 per cent ...	320
Total ...	484

(*ii*) (*1*) 425;

Civil Assistant Surgeons	152
Sub-Assistant Surgeons	273

(*ii*) (*2*) 59.

(*iii*) Rs. 280 per mensem for an Assistant Surgeon and Rs. 69-8-0 per mensem for a Sub-Assistant Surgeon. In the case of dispensaries to which medical officers were lent before the 1st August, 1913, the rates are Rs. 290 for an Assistant Surgeon and Rs. 70 for a Sub-Assistant Surgeon. The rates of contribution under the revised time-scale of pay of these officers would in the usual course be increased to Rs. 430 per mensem and Rs. 160 per mensem respectively, but Government have decided to make good the difference by grants-in-aid so that the contributions will remain unchanged.

(*iv*) Allowances in addition to pay are paid by Government for additional or responsible work performed by these officers.

(*v*) The question is not clear. The contributions represent the cost to Government on actuarial calculations of the loan of the services of these officers as a whole.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, but an allowance is paid to these officers for attending Government hostels.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes, in the case of district headquarters dispensaries, in the shape of remission of a part of the contribution (*i.e.*, the difference between the present rate and the old rates), which should be considered as a grant-in-aid from Government. It is, moreover, to be remembered that the services of the Civil Surgeons are given to the dispensaries free of charge. Government have recently reviewed the whole position in a circular letter to municipal bodies, of which a copy is laid on the Library table.

Financial relief to the Calcutta University.

122. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what more financial relief than that provided in the last budget Government contemplates giving to the Calcutta University?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the threatened curtailment of the teaching activities of the University due to want of funds is viewed with alarm by the educated public?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) In addition to the recurring grant of Rs. 1,41,000 which has been provided in the budget for the current year, Government have included a sum of Rs. 2,50,000 in the supplementary estimates for a non-recurring grant to the University of Calcutta.

(*b*) Government have no official information that the activities of the University are about to be curtailed for want of funds.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the threatened curtailment of the teaching activity of the University due to want of funds has been the subject of most anxious discussion in the Indian press?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have come across some writing in the Indian press in which conflicting statements have been made, but I have received no official representation on the subject.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Post-graduate Professors have not been re-appointed except those under a contract of five years?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have no official information on the subject. I have heard various statements of a conflicting nature.

Paucity of local trains in the Central Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

123. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that the suburban service in the Eastern Bengal Railway extends from Calcutta to Bogoola in its northern section, and from Calcutta to Canning and Calcutta to Diamond Harbour in its southern sections, covering a distance of about 58 miles, 28 miles and 37 miles respectively?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities to extend all the local train services up to Gobardanga, if not to Bongong, in the Central Section?

(c) If not, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons, if any, for which the said Railway authorities are not in a position to give effect to such a proposal?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (a) Yes; but there are certain suburban trains which run as far as Naihati, Kanchrapara, Ranaghat and Baruipur only.

(b) and (c) No. The suburban *limit* of the Central section of the Eastern Bengal Railway is Bongong, 47¾ miles. There are trains on that section which run only as far as Duttapukur. The train service is fixed taking into account the traffic offered. At present the Railway Administration would not be able to extend the service owing to shortage of rolling stock and locomotives.

Malaria at Vishnupur, Bankura.

124. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, will be taken during the current year to combat malaria in the subdivision of Vishnupur, district Bankura?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, and the Director of Public Health propose to pay a joint visit to various districts (including Bankura) in which the incidence of malaria is severe, with the object of advising Government as to what anti-malarial measures can be undertaken.

Admission into the Presidency College.

125. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the total number of candidates this year for admission into the Presidency College and the number of vacancies in the first year class?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any attempt is being made to cope with the growing demand by gradually increasing the capacity of the first year class?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased also to state whether it is correct that for the last five years the seats available to candidates for admission have been limited to the same number?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (a) No figure can be given as applications are not submitted till after publication of the results of the University examinations. Admissions to the first year are kept as closely as possible within the limit of 130 (65 Arts and 65 Science).

(*b*) The limit of 130 has always of late years been exceeded owing to the pressure of the growing demand for admission. Without increase of staff and accommodation, which has not been contemplated in recent years, the numbers cannot be markedly increased.

(*c*) The numerical limits (see answers above) were laid down by the Governing Body in 1910. The actual number of places, during the last five years, has varied somewhat according to the pressure of applications and the merits of the applicants.

Number of engineering apprentices.

126. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the number of engineering apprentices that are at present being trained at the instance of the Government of Bengal in railway and other workshops or factories?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): The member is apparently under the impression that Government ask workshops or factories to train certain apprentices. This, however, is not the case. The Board of Control for Apprenticeship Training hold qualifying examinations twice a year for the admission of apprentices to the railway and other workshops in Bengal. A list of the successful candidates is circulated to those employers who have accepted the scheme, and it is left to them to select apprentices from the list. The first examination was held in January, 1922, and 42 candidates passed. It is understood that a considerable number of the passed candidates have been admitted as apprentices but the exact number is not known.

Publicity officers.

127. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the posts of the present Publicity Officers were created;

(*ii*) the nature of the posts, *i.e.*, whether permanent or temporary;

(*iii*) the authority by which these posts were created; and

(*iv*) the number of these officers with their respective pay, allowances and office establishment?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the designation of the officer with his emoluments, who before this new creation, was in charge of preparing and issuing official *communiqués* and contradictions to the public press?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased also to state the relation between these new Publicity Officers and the Public Health Publicity Bureau and the Publicity Officer in charge of that Bureau?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) (*i*) 14th February, 1922, and 27th April, 1922.

(*ii*) Temporary.

(*iii*) The local Government.

(*iv*) Two. The Publicity Officer is also on special duty in the Education Department, and of his salary only Rs. 250 per mensem is met from publicity funds. The Assistant Publicity Officer is on a salary of Rs. 900 a month. The establishment consists of one clerk, four peons, one farash and one sweeper.

(*b*) The Director of Information on Rs. 2,000 a month was in charge of this work for one year from the 16th June, 1920. Apart from this period, the work—so far as it has been done at all—has been left to the various departments of Government.

(*c*) There is a small Public Health Publicity Section under a separate officer who works independently of the Publicity Officer. He, however, concentrates mainly on anti-malaria publicity in a restricted area in which it is proposed to locate a special anti-malaria staff, public health propaganda generally being carried on under the control of the Publicity Officer.

Inquiry over the Gurkha incident at the Chittagong railway station.

128. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table copies of all the papers, including depositions and exhibits of the inquiry over the Gurkha incident at the Chittagong Railway Station on the 20th October, 1921, by Rai S. C. Singha Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why the suggestion of a committee of inquiry, with a non-official majority, was not accepted or why no non-official was asked to co-operate with the inquiry council?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the evidence for the official side was led by a vakil especially engaged for the purpose?

(*d*) Who paid his fees, how much was paid, and at what rate per day?

(*e*) Was any legal practitioner engaged by the Government to represent the case of the wounded and assaulted persons?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the inquiry procedure was *ex-parte* for a couple of days during which several witnesses for the official version were examined without any cross-examination?

(*g*) Was any opportunity given to cross-examine them?

(*h*) Is it a fact that a petition to that effect was filed some time afterwards before the inquiry was closed?

(*i*) How many Gurkhas including officers, if any, were examined at the inquiry?

(*j*) Is it a fact that they did not substantiate the assault upon the people, or the use of the butt-ends of the gun or any force whatsoever, or causing of any wounds upon the people?

(*k*) Is it a fact that none of them up to within the first two days of the inquiry admitted any beating and suggested right of private defence?

(*l*) Why were no crosses or letters of request sent out to different persons whose names were suggested as material witnesses of the whole occurrence?

(*m*) Was Babu Binod Lal Ray, who was beaten in his gharry, examined? If not, why? Is he not a zamindar and an Honorary Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) The papers are laid on the Council Library table.

(*b*) In cases of this nature, a magisterial inquiry is the correct procedure. The association of non-officials with such an inquiry would serve no useful purpose.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government paid Rs. 224 at Rs. 32 daily.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) The whole inquiry was conducted in open Court after full notice had been given. During the first two days there was some appearance of boycotting the inquiry but pleaders and mukhtears were present in Court. During these two days some official witnesses were examined. Opportunity to cross-examine was offered but not taken.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) Five.

(*j*) They admitted using force, but did not admit causing wounds, or striking people with the butt-ends of their rifles.

(*k*) They admitted using force and their case was that they did not exceed the right of private defence. None were examined during the first two days.

(*l*) With one exception mentioned below, individual witnesses were not invited because full notice was given to the principal executive officers, to local authorities, to associations and to the public generally inviting the evidence of those acquainted with the facts.

(*m*) Babu Binod Lal Ray, is an Honorary Magistrate and the son of a zamindar. He was specially invited to give evidence because it was known that he had been injured. He was not examined because he did not appear.

Dacoities committed in Bengal during 1922.

129. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of dacoities that have been committed in Bengal, district by district, during the months of January, February, March, April and May, 1922, and also showing the number of cases, in which—

(*i*) property has been recovered; and

(*ii*) dacoits apprehended?

(*b*) Has there been any case of dacoity, during these 5 months, when the police were present at the place of occurrence at the time or within a short time of the commission of the dacoity?

(*c*) If so, on how many occasions?

(*d*) In how many of these cases were the police able to apprehend the dacoits?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*i*) Property has been recovered in 56 cases.

(*ii*) In 207 cases dacoits have been apprehended.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) On six occasions.

(*d*) In three cases the police arrested the offenders, on two occasions the dacoits fled on the police opening fire. In the other case the police arrived shortly after the dacoity and no arrests were made.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 129, showing the number of cases of dacoities in Bengal, district by district, during the months of January, February, March, April and May, 1922.

District.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bankura	2	7	1	9	1
Birbhum	1	3	1	2	1
Burdwan	3	3	9	2	10

DISTRICT.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hooghly	6	7	8	Nil	2
Howrah	3	1	2	5	6
Midnapore	53	10	21	24	11
Jessore	4	1	1	3	1
Khulna	Nil	2	1	1	4
Murshidabad ...	4	4	1	2	2
Nadia	4	7	4	3	3
24-Parganas ...	7	7	10	3	12
Bakarganj	2	3	9	7	3
Chittagong	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Faridpur	4	1	6	3	1
Noakhali	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dacca	3	10	4	5	5
Mymensingh ...	8	5	13	6	5
Tippera	2	5	9	6	5
Bogra	3	1	4	6	1
Darjeeling	Nil	Nil	1	3	Nil
Dinajpur	3	4	11	6	7
Jalpaiguri	2	3	4	Nil	2
Malda	Nil	Nil	1	4	1
Pabna	5	1	6	7	6
Rajshahi	2	2	2	5	4
Rangpur	9	8	13	13	15
Calcutta	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	2
Total ...	110	96	142	126	111

Release of political prisoners.

130. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken or what action it is proposed to take on the resolution adopted by this Council, recommending the release of prisoners convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908 and the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act of 1911, etc.?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Government have taken no action at present on the resolution but are watching the situation

Works of the Munsifs of East and West Bengal.

131. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of a feeling of discontent prevailing among the munsifs serving in East Bengal on the ground that in proportion to the amount of work the number of munsifs in West Bengal is greater than that in East Bengal?

(*b*) Are the Government considering it desirable to reduce the number of munsifs in West Bengal in comparison with the work the munsifs in East Bengal have to do?

(*c*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of suits filed in each munsifi of the province in 1921, stating the nature of the suits including miscellaneous cases;

(*ii*) the number of contested and *ex-parte* cases; and

(*iii*) the number of cases disposed of in each munsifi during 1921?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Government are unaware that such a feeling prevails.

(*b*) and (*c*) No.

(*d*) It is impossible in the time available to give the figures in the exact form required. The Hon'ble High Court has, however, furnished a statement which, subject to revision, will appear in the Administration Report on Civil Justice for 1921 giving the information so far as available. This statement is with their permission laid on the Library table.

Hydro-electric survey for industrial purposes.

132. Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken or what schemes, if any, have been framed, to make it possible for persons with small capital (*e.g.*, between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000) to start industries?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister been drawn to a recent resolution passed by the Indian Association urging the necessity for the supply of cheap electric power generated either by coal or water power?

(*c*) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken thereon?

(*d*) Has the Hon'ble the Minister in charge caused any investigation to be made for supplying cheap electric power (for industrial purposes) generated by coal in such parts of Bengal as do not possess the possibility of hydro-electric generating stations to serve them?

(*e*) If so, is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of laying a statement of the detailed results of such investigation on the table?

(*f*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes taking in this connection?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Investigations have been undertaken by the Industries Department as to the possibilities of cottage and small industries in Bengal and schemes have been prepared or are under preparation in respect of the following industries:—

(*i*) Hand-loom weaving (cotton);

(*ii*) Silk reeling and weaving;

(*iii*) Fruit canning;

(*iv*) Cigar making;

(*v*) Small tannery;

(*vi*) Banana meal manufacture;

(*vii*) Irrigation pumping plant; and

(*viii*) Vegetable oil manufacture.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The question of supply of cheap electric power is a matter for private enterprise. The Industrial Commission did not recommend any direct action on the part of Government as regards power supply except the undertaking of a special survey of the coal situation in India and the creation of an organisation to carry out a systematic survey of hydro-electric possibilities. A Committee has been

appointed to consider the adoption of measures for the hydro-electric survey of Bengal. As regards the supply of electric power from coal resources this is already an established business and, as such, no action on the part of Government is called for. The Industries Department, however, will be prepared to consider and advise on any schemes which may be placed before them.

Inspection of jails by members of Council.

133. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to afford facilities to members of the Legislative Council who want to inspect a jail to do so?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, M.L.C., went to the Alipore Jail some time in early May by special appointment with the Superintendent of the Jail but was refused permission by him to visit the jail?

(*c*) If so, what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government with reference to the action of the Jail Superintendent in refusing Mr. Mallik permission?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the members of the Jail Standing Committee for the current year have been given any authority to visit any jails?

(*e*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for not giving such authority?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to a starred question on this subject put by Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur at this meeting.

(*b*) There was a misunderstanding which has been the subject-matter of correspondence between the member referred to and myself.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) This question does not arise.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: With reference to reply (*b*), will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence which passed between the Hon'ble the Member and Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik on the subject of his treatment by the Superintendent of the Alipore Central Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I should be glad to do so.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is it a fact that the Jail Superintendent mistook Mr. Mallik for Mr. Gandhi's doctor and that on discovering the identity of Mr. Mallik he declined to allow him to visit the jail?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: So far as I am aware the facts are these: Mr. Mallik wrote to the Superintendent saying that he wanted to visit the Alipore Jail and asking what time would suit him best. Mr. Mallik in his letter did not ask for permission at all. The Superintendent naturally thought that Mr. Mallik was somebody who had authority to visit the jail and under that impression replied to him fixing a certain hour. When Mr. Mallik went there, the Superintendent thought that he was Mr. Gandhi's doctor who was to have come on that day. When Major Salisbury found out the mistake he was at a loss to know what to do as Mr. Mallik not being a Jail Visitor was not allowed to visit the jail and he told Mr. Mallik something to that effect. Mr. Mallik thought that he had written to him for permission which was given to him, but the Superintendent pointed out that he was under a misapprehension. The Superintendent, however, seeing that Mr. Mallik had come, gave him permission to see the prisoners whom he wanted to visit, but Mr. Mallik refused.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that his opinion is not shared by Mr. Mallik?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Mr. Mallik never asked for permission I have got the whole correspondence here. The Superintendent was misled.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is it a fact that on the 19th of June, a circular letter was received by the Superintendent of the Alipore Jail which asked him to afford facilities to members of Jail Standing Committees to visit the jail and that the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy, a member of the said Standing Committee, is not mentioned in the list of members of the Jail Standing Committee given in the circular letter?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: This has nothing to do with the question.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Member to this question. I again repeat my question and would ask the Hon'ble the Member to state his reasons.

[On the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim rising to answer, the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan said: Sir, this is a new question and notice ought to be given for it.]

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): It is for the Hon'ble the Member in charge to say so.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I would repeat my question. Is it not a fact that Dr. A. Suhrawardy's name was not mentioned in the list of members of the Jail Standing Committee sent with the circular letter to the Jail Superintendent?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am not aware of that.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to mention the date when members of the Jail Standing Committee were given authority to visit any jails?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I do not remember the date.

Kanchrapara Jail buildings.

134. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the amount of money spent up-to-date on the proposed camp or jail for non-co-operation prisoners at Kanchrapara?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government have decided to abandon the project?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the abandonment is due to the unsuitability of the locality as a place for the segregation of non-co-operation prisoners?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The expenditure on the buildings up to end of May, 1922, was Rs. 1,55,145.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) This question does not arise.

Alleged hardship of Muhammadan prisoners during "Ramzan."

135. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the Muhammadan fasting month of *Ramzan*, Muhammadan fasting prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail had to suffer hardships and inconvenience owing to the restrictions placed on them as to the use of latrines in the Alipore Central Jail?

(*b*) Is there any truth in the statement that complaint was made that the prison rations allowed to Muhammadan fasting prisoners were inadequate and that they were not allowed a supply of fruit even at their own expense during the *Ramzan*?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) No such complaint was made to the Superintendent who made adequate sanitary arrangements.

(*b*) The prisoners made no such complaint. Political prisoners who observed the fast were allowed fruit at their own expense during the *Ramzan;* ordinary prisoners are not allowed this privilege.

Recommendations of the Sadler Commission.

136. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state when it is proposed to introduce a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Sadler Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The member is referred to the reply given in answer to unstarred question No. 134 put by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri on the 29th August, 1921.

Financial position of the Calcutta University.

137. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he has received the views of the Calcutta University about the resolution passed in this Council for instituting an inquiry into the financial affairs of the University?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what measures, if any, he proposes to take to give effect to the resolution?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) No. In a letter dated the 27th June last, the University has intimated that the matter has been referred to a Committee of the Senate and that the report of the Committee is expected to be placed before the Senate at a very early date. It is expected, therefore, that the report will be received some time this month.

(*b*) The matter will be considered as soon as the report is received.

Recruitment of candidates to the Provincial Services.

138. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) With reference to the recent allotment of the number of candidates to be nominated by the Dacca University and the different Colleges in the Presidency for recruitment to the Provincial Services by competitive examination, has the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department received any complaints regarding the number allotted to the Dacca University?

(*b*) What were the considerations that led the Government to place the Dacca University on the same footing with some of the Calcutta Colleges?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Nominations were allotted in accordance with the number of graduates turned out by each College last year. The Dacca University has been given the privilege of nominating graduates of the Dacca College and the Jagannath College in number proportionate to the number of successful graduates last year from these Colleges.

Excess collection of settlement costs.

139. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) been drawn to question No. 120 of the Council of State and the answer given thereto by the Hon'ble Mr. B. N. Sarma on the 15th March, 1922?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to make a statement indicating the policy of Government in regard to any excess collection of settlement costs which, under the new financial arrangements, are to be credited to the Provincial revenues?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of a general public feeling that the amounts of such excess collection should be spent on objects of local public utility in the respective districts?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Excess collections, if any will form part of the provincial revenues, just as any deficit will have to be met from provincial revenues.

(*c*) Yes; but in view of the answer to (*b*), the desire cannot be fulfilled.

Removal of the restrictions on the export of rice from Bengal.

140. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table a copy of any letter which they might have addressed to the Government of India, upon the resolution moved by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy in this Council during the last winter session recommending the removal of the restrictions on the export of rice from Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the letter of this Government to the Government of India, No. 887 (Revenue Department), dated the 26th January, 1920, in which His Excellency the Governor-in-Council expressed at that time his apprehension that unchecked export (of rice) might prevent the conservation of an adequate reserve in Bengal against any shortage of subsequent harvests?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether an adequate reserve has been conserved in Bengal since January, 1920?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to say whether the said reserve has been calculated to counteract the probable shortage in the rice harvest this year owing to the lateness of the monsoon?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of a general public desire in Bengal that restrictions should be reimposed on the export of rice from Bengal, in view of the partial failure of the monsoon and the steadily increasing price of rice?

(*f*) With reference to the statement made by the Government of India in their *communiqué* on the subject, that should the removal of restrictions on the export of rice from the 1st April, 1922, be followed by a considerable rise in prices, the question will be reconsidered, are the Government considering the desirability of recommending to the Government of India's a reconsideration of the question in the present circumstances of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) The resolution referred to was lost on a division and no communication was addressed to the Government of India concerning it.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No figures are available to show the present reserve of rice, but in view of the excellent paddy crop of 1921 and of the fact that its price militates against Bengal rice being in great demand in the world's markets, it may be reasonably concluded that in spite of the removal of restrictions on export, existing supplies in Bengal are adequate.

(*d*) and (*e*) Owing to the prolonged drought in the early months of the year, the *boro* paddy crop was short and for the same reason it is anticipated that the *aus* paddy in East Bengal will not give a full yield. These classes of paddy are, however, of minor importance and as the monsoon has broken most favourably, it may be hoped that there will be at least a normal harvest of *aman* paddy. Slight increases in the price of paddy are noticeable nearly every year about the break of the monsoon. In these circumstances there is no ground for apprehension, nor is Government aware that such exists.

(*f*) The Government of Bengal do not consider that there is at present justification for asking the Government of India to reconsider the matter.

Deputation of students to foreign universities for technical education.

141. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what action, if any, it is proposed to take on the following resolution which was carried by the Council in July 1921:—

"This Council recommends to the Government to select every year from each district of Bengal and send out, at their cost, to different foreign universities, at least a dozen deserving graduates or undergraduates of the universities of Calcutta and Dacca for a three years' course of technical industrial and agricultural training under such conditions as Government may deem proper?"

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The member is referred to the list of resolutions in the lobby showing the action taken by Government on the resolution.

Provision has been made in the supplementary estimates of this session for the grant of two new technical scholarships during the current financial year.

Dacoities in Bengal.

142. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state what special action, if any, has been taken by the Government to cope with the increasing number of dacoities in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The temporary additional staff employed in the Criminal Investigation Department to deal with dacoities has been retained for a further period. Detective departments have been sanctioned in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Midnapore. Special patrols have been introduced wherever possible, and action is being taken under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Tribes Act.

Bengal constables in rural districts.

143. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that dacoities and other crimes in rural areas are on the increase?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of strengthening the number of Bengal constables in the rural districts and opening small outposts in places at a distance from the main thana where it has been found impossible to maintain supervision properly?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes; there has been an increase in the number of dacoities and certain other crimes.

(*b*) It is not proposed to open more outposts. The action taken is described in the answer to an unstarred question put at this meeting by Babu Nalini Nath Roy, to which the member is referred.

Release of political prisoners.

144. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state the effect, if any, which has been given to the resolution of Professor S. C. Mukherji, as amended by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, regarding the release of political prisoners, passed in this Council on the 31st of January?

(*b*) If no action has been taken, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to an unstarred question on the subject asked at this meeting by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Appellate Side, Paper-Book Department.

Supplementary statistics in regard to question 282 (a) (iii) and (iv) asked by Babu Surendra Nath Mallik at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 29th March, 1922.

145. The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: 282 (*a*) (*iii*) The number of printed paper-books in Regular Appeals filed by vakils during the year 1920 is 242. Figures of the number actually prepared in that year cannot be given. The appeals, in which these paper-books were filed, date from 1915 onwards.

(*iv*), (*a*) and (*b*) Of the paper-books prepared by the High Court's office, 8 consist of 20 pages or less; 25 of more than 20, but less than 100 pages; and 5 of 100 pages or over. The total number of paper-books prepared by the High Court's office in 1921 has been found, after revision, to be 38.

It is not possible to give the number of the paper-books prepared as distinct from "filed" in 1920. Of the 242 printed paper-books filed by vakils, 14 were of 20 pages or less; 82 of more than 20, but less than 100 pages; and 146 of a 100 pages or over.

Strike of coolies in the Jetties and Kidderpore Docks.

146. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce been drawn to the prolonged strike of coolies in the Jetties and the Kidderpore Docks of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the trade and industry of Bengal have been adversely affected by the strike?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps so that the dispute of the said coolies with their employers might be amicably settled and their grievances, if any, against the local authorities might be removed?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: The member is referred to the answer to clause (*a*) of an unstarred question No. 152 on the subject asked by Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri at to-day's meeting of this Council.

Contract with Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., for works in connection with the Mymensingh Partition Scheme.

147. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have settled their accounts with Messrs. Martin & Co. in connection with the construction of the proposed Chief Justice's residence?

(*b*) If so, what is the amount of their final bill?

(*c*) Is it correct that no settlement has been made with Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., who were entrusted with the contract for the manufacture of bricks at Kishoreganj and Jamalpur in connection with the Mymensingh Partition Scheme, which was subsequently stopped by Government?

(*d*) Is it correct that Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., have served a notice of suit in respect of their claims against the Government?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of settling the dispute out of court?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. XXXII at the meeting of 3rd July, 1922.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., have refused the terms of settlement offered to them.

Strike of Calcutta seamen.

148. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of a combination amongst discharged lascars and other seafaring people, including firemen, sailors and saloon crews for more pay without which they refuse to sign or sail?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement of facts and the remedies proposed or employed to meet the difficulties thus created?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): (*a*) and (*b*) The strike of the Calcutta seamen began on the 12th June, 1922. On the previous day, a meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union was held at Kidderpore, at which it was decided to ask the Shipping Agents to pay saloon crews the rate of wages prevailing in Bombay. With the exception of a short period, from July, 1919, to November, 1920, the Bombay rates for seamen have always been higher than those of Calcutta and, up to the present, this difference has been accepted as just by the seamen themselves. The strike, which took place against the advice of the chief officials of the Union, affected all seamen, and though a number expressed their willingness to sign articles on the old conditions, they were prevented from actually doing so by intimidation. A few crews signed on during the strike, but the saloon men appeared to be unanimous in demanding the Bombay rates, and refused to sign on till the end. The strike ended on the morning of the 24th June, when, on the advice of the Union, all the men, including the saloon crews, agreed to resume work on their old terms. On the 19th June, the Secretary of the Seamen's Union requested Government to set up a Conciliation Board, but this request was refused, as Government did not consider there were sufficient grounds for such intervention. The Labour Intelligence Officer kept in close touch with developments throughout and helped to bring about a settlement.

Contract with Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., for certain works in connection with the Mymensingh Partition Scheme.

149. Rai NILMANI CHATAK Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to lay on the table a copy of each of—

(*i*) the final bills offered to Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., for works in connection with the Mymensingh Partition Scheme; and

(*ii*) the final bill granted to Messrs. Martin & Company for construction of the proposed Chief Justice's residence in Calcutta.

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is correct that these two contractors have been treated differently as regards compensation for stoppage of works.

(*c*) If so, in what respects have they been so treated?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this differential treatment?

(*e*) Is it correct that Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., have been offered a lump sum as compensation?

(*f*) If so, on what basis has this been calculated?

(*g*) Is it a fact that Messrs. Sen Gupta, Ltd., have served Government with a notice of their intention to bring a civil suit?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. XXXII at the meeting on 3rd July, and to the answer given to a question put by Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt at this meeting. In the circumstances, Government is not prepared to lay papers on the table or to give the information asked for as the matter is now subject to adjudication by a court of law.

Paper Book Department.

150. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: (*a*) Has the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department received any recommendation from the Government of India in regard to the expenditure on the new paper book section of the Calcutta High Court, a demand for which was included in the last Budget, but refused by the Council?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government of Bengal on the recommendation of the Government of India?

(*c*) Have the Government of Bengal sanctioned any expenditure on the said paper book section since the refusal by the Council of the demand in March last?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when, or what amount and under what authority the expenditure was sanctioned?

(*e*) What is the percentage of first appeals from decrees that have gone up on appeal to the Privy Council during the last five years, *i.e.*, 1917 to 1921?

(*f*) Is it correct that a proposal to abolish the system of preparation of paper books in the High Court in appeals from original decrees emanated from the Privy Council in 1910 or thereabout on the ground of delay and inclusion of unnecessary papers?

(*g*) What was the resolution of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court in regard to that?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the reply given by the High Court on that occasion?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A demand has been made in the supplementary budget for Rs. 34,000 with a view to meet the charge for the continuance of the Department during the current financial year.

(*c*) and (*d*) Rs. 16,000 was restored by His Excellency the Governor to meet the expenditure of the Department up to the end of June, 1922.

(*e*)

Year.			Percentage.
1917	...	...	4·8
1918	...	...	3·5
1919	...	...	7·6
1920	...	...	6·4
1921	...	...	6·36

(*f*), (*g*) and (*h*) The Registrar of His Majesty's Privy Council suggested in 1910 that to save time and expense paper books in appeals from the Courts of Subordinate Judges to the High Court might be printed in the same type and shape as the records in Privy Council cases, so that reprinting of the paper-books might be avoided in the event of an appeal to the Privy Council following. The Court did not accept the suggestion for reasons which then appeared sufficient to the Court. The Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges do not consider that copies of these papers should be made public.

Travelling allowance and residential allowance of members of Council.

151. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the "usual places of residence" (as contemplated in the rules entitling a member to draw allowances) of the non-official members of the Council;

(*ii*) who are the members of the Council who have drawn travelling allowance or residential allowance or both and what is the amount drawn by these members since January, 1921;

(*iii*) whether it is the practice, in the case of some mufassal members, to claim and draw travelling allowance back to their headquarters during week-ends when the Council is not sitting, in lieu of residential allowance in Calcutta;

(*iv*) how many members have drawn such travelling allowance, and on how many occasions, since January, 1921; and

(*v*) what is the longest and shortest time any one member has stayed at his headquarters, during any one of these trips?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of framing a rule requiring members to take the leave of the Hon'ble the President when they return to headquarters for short stays?

(*c*) Have the Government taken any steps to prevent these short and hurried returns to headquarters by members in the midst of a session without any adequate reason?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing a rule that travelling allowance will be paid, except in the case of members who live at short distances from Calcutta, once at the commencement of the session for the journey to Calcutta and again at the end of a session for the return journey of a member to headquarters?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: (*a*) (*i*) This question cannot be fully answered in respect of the members who do not draw travelling allowance and residential allowance; their usual places of residence in Calcutta are as shown in column 8 of the seventh list of members of this Council. In respect of others who draw their travelling allowance and residential allowance their usual places of residence are as shown in the statement laid on the table in reply to the member's starred question on the subject.

(*ii*) The member is referred to the reply given to his starred question on the subject in this session.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*v*) Twenty-two hours and 3 hours, respectively.

(*b*) and (*d*) The question of travelling allowance and residential allowance of members has been discussed by the Council in the debate on various resolutions on the subject and Government is considering the views therein expressed.

(*c*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 151 (ii) re: short trips made by members since January, 1921 and travelling allowance charged.

Names.	Number of trips.
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M. Khan Bahadur	11
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin	18
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin ...	15
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin	9

Names.	Number of trips.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin	12
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin	16
Ahmed, Mr. M.	5
Ahmed, Munshi Jafer	5
Ali, Munshi Amir	3
Ali, Munshi Ayub	3
Ali, Maulvi Saiyid Hossain	1
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar	10
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed	4
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M B E.	10
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra	1
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan	9
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath	Nil.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman ...	11
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad	Nil.
Das, Babu Bishnadev	15
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra	Nil
DeLisle, Mr. J A.	4
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal, M.B.E.	Nil.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan	3
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan	Nil.
Faroqui, Mr K. G. M.	3
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nihnani	Nil
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul	Nil.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul	13
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur	5
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra	Nil.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul	5
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal	Nil.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal	Nil.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din	14
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin	11
Khan, Mr, Razaur Rahman	Nil.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali	11
Makramali, Munshi	8
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra (daily passenger)	Nil.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra (daily passenger) ...	Nil.
Mukharji, Professor S. C. (daily passenger) ...	Nil.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra	1
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary	21
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar	13
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur	7
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekareswar	Nil
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal	1

Names.	Number of trips.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor	Nil.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra (daily passenger)	Nil.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath	4
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra	2
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna	2
Roy, Babu, Jogendra Nath	Nil
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath	Nil.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra ...	Nil.
Roy, Mr Bijoyprosad Singh	6
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh	6
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh, C.I.E.	8
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath	1
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra	11
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan	Nil
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan	Nil.
Travers, Mr W L, O.B.E.	Nil.

Strike of Dock and Jetty Coolies.

152. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the facts about the recent strike of the Dock and Jetty coolies;

(*ii*) what steps, if any, have been taken to conciliate the strikers;

(*iii*) the facts about the recent strike of Indian seamen;

(*iv*) what steps, if any, have been or are being taken by the Government of Bengal to counteract the action of ship-owners in England who are replacing lascars by British seamen on the plea that a small section of the Indian crew of S.S. *Egypt* behaved badly before she was sunk by a collision in the English Channel; and

(*v*) the facts about the difference in the scale of wages paid to Calcutta and Bombay saloon boys;

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) (*i*) The strike of the Dock and Jetty coolies started on the 1st June, 1922, as the result of the conviction of two sirdars for an assault on a craneman employed by the Port Commissioners. The coolies demanded from their employers an assurance of protection against the alleged high-handedness of the cranemen and a promise of help in cases of prosecution. As a condition of taking the men back to work, the stevedores asked the sirdars to sign a new agreement specifying in detail the future conditions of work in the Docks. A number of sirdars signed the new agreement in the last week of June, and the remainder signed on the 1st and 3rd July.

Work at the Docks is now normal. During the strike work was carried on mainly by coolies imported from Madras and Rangoon and by ships' crews.

(*ii*) During the strike, negotiations were conducted continuously between representatives of the coolies and the stevedores. A request for official intervention was made on the 9th June, by Babu Upendra Nath Sau, who acted as the mouthpiece of the coolies, but was refused, as Government did not consider that there were sufficient grounds for such intervention.

(*iii*) The member is referred to the answer to an unstarred question on the subject asked by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur at to-day's meeting of this Council.

(*iv*) Government are not aware that action, as stated by the member, has been taken by ship-owners in England. If the member has any reliable information, Government will be prepared to represent the matter to the Government of India, who are primarily concerned.

(*v*) The following table shows the difference in the scale of wages paid to the Calcutta and Bombay saloon boys:—

Saloonmen.	Calcutta.	Bombay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Butler-in-charge	80	90
Butler under Steward	75	85
Baker	70	70
Baker Mate	30	22-8
Chief Cook and Baker	75	85
Chief Cook	70	80
2nd Cook	40	45
3rd Cook	25	28
4th Cook	20	22-8
Saloon boys	34	26—35
Marconi Boy	10	10
Mess Room Boy	34	35
" " Mate	15	15
Butcher	45—50	55
" Mate	25	25
Scullion	24	22-8
Topass	22	22-8
Pantryman, 1st class	37—40	40
" 2nd class	35	22-8

Paper Book Department.

153. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:—

(*i*) the amount realised from the appellants to the High Court in first appeals from decrees as cost for the preparation of paper-books from January to June, 1922;

(*ii*) the cost of the establishment of the Paper-Book Department of the High Court during the last six months, exclusive of fees paid to the translators and examiners of translations from January to June, 1922; and

(*iii*) the expenditure incurred in the Paper-Book Department of the High Court under the following heads:—

(I) the salaries of assistant registrar, superintendents and assistant superintendents in charge of the Department;

(II) The salaries of clerks, typists and copyists employed in the paper book section;

(III) the salaries of editors and assistant editors;

(IV) the salaries of proof-readers;

(V) the amounts paid to presses for printing paper books;

(VI) the fees paid to translators;

(VII) the fees paid to examiners of translations?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there are any officers or clerks employed wholly or partially in the paper book section whose salaries are shown in the permanent staff of the High Court as distinct from the new paper book section?

(*c*) If so, what is their number and what is the total amount of their monthly salary?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how the cost of the Paper—Book Department during April to June, 1922, has been met by the Government after the demand for the said Department in the Budget for the year 1922-23 had been refused by the Council?

(*e*) Has His Excellency the Governor restored any portion of the demand in the Budget made for the cost of the paper book section and refused by the Council? If so, when?

(*f*) What is the number of the paper-books in first appeals from decrees prepared by the Paper Book Department of the High Court and the total number of pages printed during the last six months, January to June 1922?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of these paper books consisting of 20 pages or less;

ing the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been acceped by the Government?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The number of meetings of the Judicial Standing Committee in 1921-22 was 3 and of the Jails Standing Committee 5.

The functions of the Committee are advisory and their proceedings are confidential.

Sittings of the Police Standing Committee.

155. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Police Standing Committee during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The Standing Committee attached to the Police Department met on seven occasions in 1921-22. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings confidential.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: A general circular letter has been placed in the hands of members regarding the alteration of the List of Business in regard to a supplementary demand in which it is stated that the demand will be taken up at the last hour on Tuesday, the 11th instant. I am to explain, in that connection, that the discussion on the paper book grant will be taken up at 5-30 P.M. exactly.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: With reference to this item, the time fixed for discussion is one hour, and if you take away this hour the business will suffer.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You will have a whole hour to discuss that item from 5-30 to 6-30 P.M.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: What I mean to say is this: A fixed time has been allotted for discussion of certain items, and if you devote one hour to this particular item, will that time be taken away from other items?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: There need be no such apprehension. Each demand will be given its allotted time.

Demands for Grants.

26.—Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I move that a sum of Rs. 3,56,471 be granted for expenditure under head "26.—Police."

It will be observed that there are unfortunately motions for the refusal or reduction of practically all the items that make up this vote. It will therefore save time to reserve my remarks until those motions come up for discussion.

Motions for reductions.

The following motion, which stood in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,274, under head '26.—Police—Scheme 1' be refused."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,274, under head "26.—Police—Scheme 1" for Arms Act Department, be refused.

I think it is quite evident that an additional grant of Rs. 3,50,471 has been asked for by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department. I should have thought that having regard to the unprecedented increase in police charges in recent years, perhaps the Hon'ble Member might have waited for the result of the Retrenchment Committee before asking this House for another grant of over Rs. 3½ lakhs. However, my motion is confined to a very small microscopic sum of a little over Rs. 2,000. It may be said that I am carping—I am simply playing with a sum of a little over Rs. 2,000. I may explain that in this item it is stated that this additional establishment is required for the purpose of coping with the increase of work in the Arms Act Department. I must accept the statement that is made here on the authority of the Commissioner of Police, and therefore to my mind, and I believe to the mind of any ordinary individual, it might appear necessary that some increase in the ministerial staff may be necessary, but instead of that I find that a sub-inspector on Rs. 150 a month *plus* additional allowances is to be appointed. I do not find that the department has asked for any additional ministerial staff. If that had been the case I should not have objected to the item at all because when the officer in charge of this particular department says that the business has increased and the work of the department has increased and he wants additional staff, surely he is in a better position to consider the matter than we are, but I fail to understand the necessity of having another sub-inspector added to the large army of inspectors and sub-inspectors in

the police staff. As one who is to a certain extent acquainted wit the operations of the Arms Act in our part of the town—I do not sa that I know the operation of the Arms Act in its entirety—but as fa as I know in our part of the town, it is the local police who are entruste with making inquiries about applicants who apply for exemption o rather for permission to keep fire-arms or rather who apply for licenses Therefore, I do not understand what is the necessity of having a additional sub-inspector for this department, and I think, therefore that it would be better to refuse this demand, and at the same tim if it is deemed necessary to add to the ministerial staff, I, for my part will be glad to support that motion.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: When a particula department asks for a very small addition to its staff it is not possibl for the Council to say whether it is necessary or not, but we can speal on the principle underlying such demands. Here we find that th Arms Act Department thinks an extra sub-inspector of police is neces sary for prompt despatch of business in that office. But, Sir, the worl involved is undoubtedly clerical. Why then appoint a sub-inspecto of police who has been specially trained for investigation work an who costs much more than an ordinary clerk? We can get a fairl competent ministerial officer for Rs. 100 a month, but a sub-inspecto of police would cost us Rs. 275 in Calcutta and also a lump sum o Rs. 244 for his dress, etc. I, therefore, move that we should mak provision only for a clerk on Rs. 100 a month and refuse Rs. 1,46 which would be necessary if a sub-inspector of police were to be appointed I must add here that all investigation work of this department is carrie through local police-stations, and even if any investigation be don through this office, there are several executive officers in the depart ment who can be expected to do such work.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ had a similar motion standing i his name, but he withdrew it.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The work of the Arms Ac Department has decreased owing to licenses being issued more sparingl than hitherto, and, therefore I think, the reason of pressure of work in the department cannot be put forward now, and I beg to submi that the entertainment of a sub-inspector on Rs. 275 a month is no reasonable.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: We are very grateful t the Rai Bahadur and to the Kumar Sahib for their co-operation i offering a ministerial officer to the Arms Act Department. I may, however, explain why a ministerial officer will not do for this kind o work. The Arms Act Department deals not only with the issue o arms but with the whole of the Arms Act. It has to inspect the dealers' books, their godowns: it has to make inquiries, and verify ever

sale they make. In addition to the Arms Act, it also deals with the Poisons Act, the Explosives Act, and there were in 1920, 200 licenses under the Explosives Act, and since then the number of these licenses has considerably risen. It also deals with the Petroleum Act. In 1920, there were 200 depôts and in the next year the number rose to nearly 400. The work for which this sub-inspector is wanted is for the inspection of the depôts which are licensed and have to be inspected regularly and thoroughly. The new Arms Act rules came into force on the 1st of January, 1920. In the same year, the Commissioner of Police took over the administration of the Arms Act in the whole of the suburbs as well as in Calcutta and thereby the work was enormously increased. The new rules have very much increased the work on the Arms Act side. There are constant alterations and additions to the rules, and exemptions and so forth have been a fruitful source of work to the Arms Act Department for the last two years. These two years we have had this department on a temporary basis in order that we may not confirm it on too large a scale, until we have had a thorough experience of the work. We have now decided to confirm it, but in confirming it the Commissioner of Police has asked for this small addition to his staff.

Before 1920, the Arms Act staff consisted of one inspector, one sub-inspector, two sergeants and two constables. Since then there has been an addition of an Assistant Commissioner, one inspector, one sub-inspector, two sergeants and four constables. We now propose to add one sub-inspector and one record-supplier. That would make three sub-inspectors. One's duty is to inspect all the licensed depôts, the licensed arms and petroleum shops in the north of the town, and another's duty is to do the same work in the south, while the third is required for miscellaneous inquiries. The record-supplier is required because owing to the large number of applications for licenses which are dealt with in the clerical department, the one record-supplier we have is not sufficient to avoid delays, and it is economical to employ another record-supplier rather than waste the time of the clerks in having to hunt for files and papers that are wanted.

I trust that this House will regard this additional establishment as being not unnecessary but reasonable.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I inquire what has been the increase in the number of licensed godowns and arms shops during the last two or three years?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The only figures I have got now are of petroleum godowns. I find that in 1920, there were 200 licensed petroleum godowns in Calcutta: in 1921, the number rose to 371, and now I think it is over 400.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur's motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 5,773 under head "26.—Police" for entertainment of additional sergeants, etc., for the Public Vehicles Department, be refused.

From a perusal of the supplementary police budget, it seems to me that Government is in an extraordinary hurry to spend as much money on the police as they can before the Retrenchment Committee has had time to submit its report. Otherwise, how are we to explain this demand, the note against which says that more than a year ago, Government gave administrative sanction for 10 sergeants and some other staff. They could manage without these two sergeants for one whole year, and now from August next they propose to appoint these two sergeants. It is most likely that the report of the Retrenchment Committee, will be submitted before October, that is, before the next budget is framed. That is the direction of Government as far as I can understand.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry): The direction is that the report should be submitted, if possible, before the end of this year.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: So I do not understand how the Public Vehicles Department will come to a deadlock without the assistance of these two sergeants for these few months. Then, Sir, there is no reason why in this Public Vehicles Department constables should not do the work very well. So, I cannot understand why we should spend the hard-earned tax-payer's money on this department just now. With these few words, I beg to move my resolution.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have an identical motion in my name, and I wish to point out, in addition to what has fallen from my friend, that I am not one of those who is anxious to reduce the police expenditure whether it is essentially necessary or not. For my part I can tell you—I can tell the Hon'ble Member—that we are practically without police in our part of the town. Instead of giving us sergeants, if the Hon'ble Member would increase the number of *pahrawallas*, they will allow us to enjoy our sleep in more security than we do at present. So, it must not be assumed that I am against police expenditure as a whole, but I fail to understand what is the use of having another couple of sergeants when you have been so long managing with eight additional sergeants in the Public Vehicles Department. Then, Sir, it is stated that on account of the transfer of the Public Vehicles Department from Fenwick Bazar to Beniapukur, it is necessary to have guards in two places, and, therefore, it is proposed to have three head constables—if I have followed the statement aright—and three constables. I do not know why this staff is necessary. It is presumed that it is wanted for guarding the two places. I do

not know whether the ordinary police staff for guarding the old Fenwick Bazar station will be retained—I have not got these particulars. At any rate, I do not know why this expenditure on three head constables and three constables is necessary, for guarding another place, and further, I again repeat—and it has been repeated more than once in this House—all these items will require scrutiny by the Retrenchment Committee, and it is only a matter of three or four months. If we go on increasing in this way when we have got a small surplus of about Rs. 19 lakhs, I do not think we will be dealing with the Retrenchment Committee very fairly. We shall be rather hampering them than helping them.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 5,773 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 2' be reduced by Rs. 929."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 5,773 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 2" for the entertainment of additional sergeants, head-constables and constables for the Public Vehicles Department, be reduced by Rs. 448.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

The speakers who preceded me have explained the reasons for, and the importance of, this motion. I have nothing to add to what has been said by them. I have come from a distant village to co-operate with you and not to fight with you. Seeing that nothing is being accepted by the Government, I move this motion of mine for the reduction of a small sum and it is for the Hon'ble Member to accept or reject it. In suggesting this motion I left out the pay of two menials at Rs. 25 and Rs. 18, respectively, and the cost of their clothing, etc., which amounts to Rs. 448. I, however, leave it to the good sense of the House.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 5,773 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 2" for the Public Vehicles Department of the Calcutta Police Force, be reduced by Re. 1.

Here, too, my amendment is based on a question of principle. I submit that if expansion of work has necessitated two more appointments, let these appointments go to the natives of the soil. If necessary, let two sub-inspectors be appointed in place of two European sergeants. In the long run they will prove cheaper when the question of married sergeants' quarters comes up before the House.

CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Mr. J. Donald): The main objection to the proposals has reference to the financial position of Government. In this matter we do not consider that the Public

Vehicles Department should really be a source of revenue and if we can manage to cover all expenditure necessary for the department within its receipts, we are doing well. At present the receipts from the Public Vehicles Department are very much in excess of the expenditure, and there is ample margin, for keeping up the force to the required strength for the control of traffic. We can find the money and so the proposals are not affected by the financial position. The proposed staff is really required. Last year there were 2,200 more motor vehicles in Calcutta over the number in the previous year—including motor cars, taxis, lorries, etc., and it may be interesting to the members to know that as many as 1,377 persons were injured in 1921 and 95 were killed as a result of accidents from motor vehicles. The idea in 1920 was to appoint 10 sergeants. At that time there was money only sufficient to provide for eight sergeants and for that reason the Commissioner carried on with eight, but the traffic conditions at the present moment are becoming very difficult. There are not enough sergeants moving about the streets controlling the traffic and seeing that the regulations are observed. Part of the expenditure is due to the fact that the depôt at Beniapukur has been added to remove the congestion at Fenwick Bazar, and the staff of head-constables and constables which we have provided for is intended mainly for Beniapukur. It is a very small staff of three head-constables and three constables to guard the property night and day. Head-constables and constables are not fitted for the work for which sergeants are required, namely, for running all over Calcutta, seeing that the regulations are observed and that the traffic is kept in order. There is a big surplus in this department from which we want to meet this small expenditure, and on financial grounds, therefore, there is no objection to the expenditure. The staff proposed is actually required and I must oppose the amendment.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is it the policy of Government to keep a costly and extravagant staff simply because one particular department is making some profit, as was suggested by Mr. Donald?

Mr. J. DONALD: The staff we propose is neither extravagant nor costly having regard to the work done.

The motions were then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 41,615 under head "26.—Police" for the recurring cost of the extra mounted police and motor vehicles for the Calcutta police be refused.

I fully realise the great responsibility that has devolved upon this Council because of the bold declaration made by His Excellency the Governor, that he leaves the final decision of this matter in the hands of the Council. This declaration to abandon his power of restoring a rejected grant in a reserved subject, specially in such a pet subject like the police, must appeal to all members of this Council, which has so long worked in

the fettered atmosphere of a hopeless dyarchy. I sincerely trust that this decision is not a temporary one, but will always be followed in all the reserved subjects. When, therefore, I move that this demand for the extra mounted police be refused, I do so, not in any frivolous or captious spirit, but with the full consciousness of this great responsibility—so justly transferred to our shoulders.

Much capital has been sought to be made of the fact that this extra mounted police was sanctioned by this Council in January last, and it has been freely alleged that if this Council refused this grant in March last by the narrow majority of one, it must have been done so in circumstances which were not fully understood, so much so that it appeared to His Excellency that there was a considerable element of doubt as to whether this vote really represented the considered opinion of the Council.

Without wishing in any way to criticise the opinion of His Excellency, may I protest most vehemently against the source of information and assurance, that has been supplied to His Excellency and which is evidently contrary to facts as I shall presently show.

I know that this Council has unfortunately gone back on its own vote on two distinct occasions, once by sanctioning Rs. 23 lakhs which it had once refused and again by sanctioning a grant to continue to keep the political prisoners in jail, it had itself decided that they should be set free. I fully realise that this Council has thus laid itself open to the stigma of not knowing its own mind—to the stigma of the majority of one vote—even if that majority were obtained in the teeth of the strenuous activities of the Government whips, being regarded as not representing the considered opinion of the Council. But I can assure the Government that there has been no misconception in this matter. If there was any slight misunderstanding, there was reason for it on the first occasion, when the grant was sanctioned; there was none on the second occasion, when the grant was refused, as I shall presently show. May I ask, Sir, if the majority had been more than one, would Government have accepted the decision of the Council? Have they done so in the past, when that decision has gone against the wishes of the Government?

A mere glance at the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, delivered on the first occasion of his asking the grant on the 30th January last, will convince the House that it was no ordinary grant. It was not a grant that had been brought up in the regular course of the expansion of the Police Department at the time of the preparation of the financial budget of 1921-22. The Commissioner of Police might have asked for his expansion long ago, but the Hon'ble Member did not think it important enough to give it a place in the budget of 1921-22. I can make bold to say that had not the *hartals* and other activities of the non-co-operators upset the nerves of the authorities, we might not have heard of this demand at all, though the first demand in January was described

by the Government as a permanent demand, the fact that the whole speech of Sir Henry Wheeler was obsessed with the extraordinary situation in Calcutta, the fact that it was brought in hot haste at the fag-end of the year, when there remained barely two months before the close of the financial year, must have overwhelmed the Council with the belief that it was an extraordinary measure.

I shall take the liberty of quoting the following passages from the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler's speech and these quotations will convince the members of this Council that this demand was not an ordinary demand. This is what the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler said on the 30th January last:—

> Put briefly this expenditure was considered by Government to be necessary in order to strengthen the Calcutta Police to meet the very dangerous situation which existed in this city since the middle of November last, and which still exists.

Then again:—

> We have attempts to form unlawful and disorderly processions, to hold forbidden meetings and to revive the old methods of picketing and intimidation.

Then again:—

> Naturally, the coping with this situation has thrown a grievous burden of work and responsibility upon the police.

Then again:—

> A considerable part of the expenditure for which funds are now sought has been incurred, and I think it will be agreed that, in the circumstances, this was inevitable.

Here was the cat out of the bag. The Government in a panic had already incurred most of the expenditure, had appointed the mounted police and bought the motor lorries, and it was only a sort of an eye-wash that the Council was asked to sanction the money. This was not the only occasion when the Government had spent money first and come to the Council afterwards for the grant of that money, and let me take this occasion of entering my protest—my vehement protest—against this procedure, this camouflage of asking for money after it has been already spent. I remember perfectly well that the Government whips and even some of the comparatively independent members said, well, it was an extraordinary situation, the money has been spent at any rate, most of it has been spent, how can you refuse the money now? When the permanent demand comes in the next budget, *i.e.*, in March, we shall see to it. That was the impression of the Council. If I am not mistaken, Sir, this was how the grant was made in January and now the Government quite coolly says that the Council sanctioned the permanent increase in January and was wrong in refusing the grant in March. I do not understand this mentality.

Another piece of evidence taken from the budget of 1922-23, will convince the House that this grant was an extraordinary one. When the

budget of 1922-23 was drawn in October, 1921, this item of extra mounted police had not found a place in the budget. The Government had only kept a sum of one lakh under the vague item of meeting political situation. The scheme of the extra mounted police had not matured and had not been budgeted for. This is the only reason why, at the March session of the Council, during the budget discussions, the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler had to apologise for having, to some extent, misled the Council by the form in which the entry found its place in the budget. That this demand for the extra mounted police was the outcome of an emergent situation, will also be clear from Sir Henry Wheeler's reply to the amendment of Professor S. C. Mukherji in March last. This is what he said:—

> When we came to examine our resources in connection with recent events, the Commissioner of Police pressed upon us, the undeniable claim that existed for strengthening the Mounted Force in Calcutta.

So, it is clear that it was in connection with these recent events that the scheme matured. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler even in March, 1922, admitted that this necessity for the extra mounted police was the outcome of the extraordinary situation. Then, was it any wonder that the majority of the members of this Council believed in January that this extra mounted police was necessitated by the extraordinary situation and that they should not deny it as long as that extraordinary situation lasted?

When the demand came up in March, the Council, I think, quite justly thought that, as the political situation had improved, there was no justification for continuing this police. If the situation grew worse at any future time, the Government could easily appoint new men as they had already done in December, 1921. The Council, therefore, refused the grant. I say deliberately that the voting did represent the considered opinion of this Council: what justification can there be for the insinuation that the Council did not know its own mind? If the bureaucratic executive advised His Excellency to restore the grant by laying the blame on the Council, the responsibility for this obstinate attitude must rest on the shoulders of the executive. It would not do to lay the blame on the Council and say that it did not know what it was doing. Because the Council came to the help of the Government with the large grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs in January, it is now being rewarded with an insulting contempt for its opinion in March. This is retribution.

Let us now look at this fresh argument of the Government, *viz.*, that the Calcutta mounted police is very much undermanned in comparison with Bombay. This argument has, I hear, satisfied the Police Standing Committee. May I ask the members of the Police Standing Committee, if they are satisfied that the conditions in Bombay and Calcutta are similar? Did they take note of the great difference of events that happened in Bombay and Calcutta during the visit of His Royal

Highness the Prince of Wales in each city? May I ask the members of the Police Standing Committee, if they know that the cost of the Bombay city police is much less than that of the Calcutta city police? They will find this information in Mr. Gourlay's book on the history of the Bengal Police. I commend that book to the members of the Police Standing Committee. If Government want to bring the Calcutta police on a level with the Bombay police, let them bring the expenses in a line also. Let them reorganise their force by abolishing some of their unnecessary Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Police. They can easily find money for the expansion of their mounted police. Unless they do this, the Council will not be justified in sanctioning the extra grant.

So much for the mounted police. The ordinary mounted police for Calcutta is quite sufficient for ordinary purposes. If any extraordinary situation arises in future, the Council will be quite ready, as it has been in the past to sanction a grant for meeting an emergent situation. As for motor transport, it was needed to move the police quickly from place to place during those stormy days, when Government thought that their presence was necessary all over the city.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope Mr. Dutta you will be brief.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: One minute more, Sir.

But these are quiet and placid times and we cannot allow the Calcutta police the luxury of enjoying motor drives at the expense of the poor tax-payer. If a serious situation threatens to arise again, the Government can easily hire lorries from several motor transport companies that are springing up in this city or can even purchase some as they did last winter. Let them sell off those lorries, that they must find unnecessary now.

I entreat my fellow members to remember the dignity of this Council. Let them not be swayed by outside consideration: let not every breath of wind change their mind. Let them not behave like silly children—to-day of one mind and to-morrow of another! Let it not be said that only children have got the franchise in this Council. If a majority of one vote expressed their honest opinion then, let that majority be overwhelming to-day, so that no one may have any doubt as to what the Council really think of these ever-increasing recurring demands of the Police Department.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Before I say anything, I must express my gratitude to His Excellency for allowing us an opportunity to consider this question again. I allowed my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta to move this resolution as I was anxious to hear him because he had been sitting on the Police Committee for some time and considering the situation and was therefore in a better position to

judge the necessity of another permanent addition to the police grant. In January, when the question was raised, I had some suspicion in my mind that possibly it was a permanent addition and I raised my voice against it, but it was the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler which gave us the impression that it was only temporary and in that view it was granted. When again the question arose in March we raised our voices against it. Whatever may be the opinion of His Excellency because it was carried by a majority of only one vote, circumstanced as we are, we know that in this Council to carry a resolution against the opposition of the officials and their supporters is no small matter. It is much and I do not think that to-day even if we carry the motion, it will be, as my friend confidently hopes, by an overwhelming majority. I do not wish to take up the time of the Council any more as my friend has already dealt with the subject at some length. One retrenchment committee is already considering the question and another retrenchment committee is sitting. I do not think that this is the time to add a heavy permanent item to the police grant. As far as I know, nothing has happened to change our opinion which we expressed in March last.

With these few words, I beg to support the motion of my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: The enormous increase in police expenditure is causing grave anxiety to the people of Bengal. It is like an octopus ever stretching, ever expanding and ever grasping. Its thirst is insatiable and unquenchable. This department does not eat but it gormandises. Within the last 10 years, the police expenditure has gone up from Rs. 67,37,586 to Rs. 181 lakhs. Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur drew the attention of this Council in his last budget speech to this abnormal increase. In ten years the expenditure has gone up by 150 per cent. This department has swallowed up one-fifth of the revenue and still it is not satisfied. Still it comes and asks for further grants. I wish the Government of Bengal had shown one-tenth of their solicitude for the expansion of primary education. The Government have taken 108 years in raising the grant for primary education from one lakh to 24 lakhs of rupees; in 1814, this Government made a grant of one lakh of rupees for primary education. A century has gone—more than a century has elapsed—and in 1922-23 the Government have granted only Rs. 24 lakhs for primary education. If the Hon'ble the Minister for Education had one-fourth of the police grant, things would have been different in this province. Coming to the specific point or item, the Hon'ble Member who was in charge of this department (now His Excellency Sir Henry Wheeler, the Governor of Bihar and Orissa) said:—

I am sorry that the form in which this entry appears in the Budget has, perhaps, not altogether unreasonably, given rise to the misunderstanding which underlies

most of the speeches which we have heard. But in excuse I would only remind the Council that the Budget is compiled in October and November last, and once an entry gets in a particular form, even although it be properly amended later, it is likely to be overlooked and to continue as it came in.

I feel that there was absolutely no wrong entry. It was in October and November, 1921, that non-co-operation was in very great vigour. The non-co-operators were carrying on their campagin in a most vigorous manner just at that time—in October and November, 1921,—and the Department was perfectly correct and perfectly honest in putting in that entry. But in six months' time, *i.e.*, by the time it came before the Legislative Council in March last, non-co-operation was dead and when I introduced this very matter in the Legislative Council, in my speech I made it perfectly clear that non-co-operation was either dead or was in a moribund condition or suspended animation and I was perfectly correct. Therefore, there was no mistake in the entry and there was no necessity for the demand by March, 1922. The Hon'ble Member in charge was compelled to make out a new case and he did make out a new case. My only point is that there was absolutely no misunderstanding.

Now coming to the question whether a permanent strengthening of the Calcutta Police, Mounted Force, is needed, may I be permitted just to quote another passage from Sir Henry Wheeler's speech delivered on the 22nd March this year?—

The second portion of this grant has reference to the Mounted Force. When we came to examine our resources, in connection with *recent* events [*mark the expression*] the Commissioner of Police pressed on us the undeniable claim that existed for strengthening the Mounted Force in Calcutta and for giving them a rate of pay which would keep them in service

I thoroughly appreciated that the Department felt that in the light of past experience some strengthening was necessary, but what are the facts to-day? Where is non-co-operation to-day? Where are its activities? It is dead. It is gone and the non-co-operators are revising their old programme. Therefore, the permanent strengthening of the Calcutta Police, Mounted Force, absolutely falls to the ground. There is absolutely no necessity for it. If there is a reasonable body in this country, it is the Legislative Council of Bengal. When the exigencies of the circumstances demanded it, we came to the rescue of the Government. Thus when the Government of Bengal wanted Rs. 2,54,000 to meet the non-co-operators' activities and to meet the political situation, with much alacrity this Council came to the rescue of the Government and gave them the money. When you are in real need, you come to us. We are not unreasonable, we are not children, we know that the Police is an important Department of Government and it must be helped when the occasion demands it. There is absolutely no occasion for it now and I hope that the members of the Bengal Legislative Council will rise to the occasion, will remember their own

dignity, and will reject the demand which is absolutely unnecessary and unreasonable.

Babu NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: I have nothing very important or useful to say in support of this motion. So, I do not like to take up the time of the Council by making a speech. I simply support the motion as a similar one stands in my name.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 41,615 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 3," for extra mounted force and running expenses of motor vehicles of the Calcutta Police Force, be reduced by Rs. 33,565, being the cost for the extra mounted force.

It has been observed that on the 22nd of March, our voting on this demand was done in circumstances which were not fully understood. But, Sir, is that statement based on correct information? Did not Sir Henry Wheeler, the then Member in charge, try his utmost to make it appear that the demand was not needed for a mere political exigency, but that a permanent ornamentation of the Calcutta Police had been thought imperative, that the very stability of the State depended along with other showy additions to the Police Force on the sudden trebling of the number of the equestrian policemen in Calcutta? Sir Henry Wheeler had explained all these to us and we went into the division lobby with the full explanatory speech of Sir Henry still ringing in our ears. There was no misconception, no misunderstanding. We knew full well that a permanent charge was being foisted upon us, and a passing ebullition of public feeling caused by the non-co-operators was being exploited fully for the aggrandisement of the Police for one of its showy appendages. Those of us who happen to make some stay in Calcutta know how these sowars are employed. They are mostly found for about two hours in the evening at crossings, near about the Government House and the maidan, vying in their statuesque beauty with the bronze statutes on the maidan, glorying and glorified in their supreme inactivity. They are also sometimes seen in the football season near the football grounds plying their whips impartially on the coloured crowds that gather round the football matches. They might make the backs of the natives smart by their caresses, they might fill the heart of the Commissioner of Police with pride, and delight, but is such work enough justification for maintaining such a costly lot? Why, they are never seen patrolling in those quarters where daylight robbery is rife; they are not seen in Banstolla Gully nor in any other *goonda*-infested quarter in Northern Calcutta where quick pursuit might be needed. Well, Sir, is that such a justification that a vote by a majority of the Council should be relegated to the waste paper basket? It has been said, Sir, that the majority was a majority of one only, and such a narrow majority in the Council could be safely neglected. This statement has been made by a British statesman from whom

we did expect a better understanding of our position in the Council. I confess that we cannot but view with alarm and dismay the attitude taken by him. This has naturally led us to seriously question as to what constitutes a proper and correct majority in the estimation of the Government. We have now worked in this Council for over 18 months and within that period the Government has been defeated on several occasions and by big majorities; there was at least one instance in which all the non-official members who took part in the division voted against the Government. But we all know with what respect those majorities were treated. The Government of India Act authorises the Local Government to treat our votes in any way it pleases, so why this little joke that the majority was a majority of one only, and so it could with a clear conscience be brushed aside? And the minority consisting of whom? Mainly of Government members—

> Who are not to reason why,
> But at Boss' signal cry out "Aye."

Now, Sir, I turn to the pernicious practice which has creeped in of late into our administration, namely, the so-called reconsideration by the Council of its own decisions. It is one thing certifying a grant when the Government is bent upon having the money, no matter what the representatives of the people may think of it, but it is another when, in the name of allowing the Council to reconsider its own decision, it is submitted to us over and over again. To some it may appear sweet as showing the Government solicitous for our opinion, but is it not otherwise insulting to our intelligence? Are we not thus only in other words asked to denounce ourselves, to condemn our own decisions, to foreswear our own judgment? If you have no confidence in us; if you cannot trust our judgment, do whatever you please, decry us, but pray do not affect the good master by giving to us the whip handle to whip ourselves. There may be some amongst us who under such compulsion may eat the humble pie with a face affecting a very knowing smile, may cry *toba* and pull themselves by their ears and noses, but remember what indignities the Government thus asks us to heap upon ourselves. Even in the very first session of its existence, this Council, by sanctioning a part of the police demand after having once refused it, has already won for itself the unenviable reputation of a vacillating lot, ignorant of its own mind, but cowering when a *zuberdust* show is put up, whenever sufficiently bullied.

It is no good saying that this gives us an opportunity of rectifying our own mistakes. Sir, there may be an honest difference of opinion between a representative Council and a bureaucratic executive. And in such a case, when, under the present constitution, the immovable executive is empowered totally to ignore us, why should not the honest power of certifying the demands be resorted to? But what is this? Does this redound to the glory of the Government, or to the dignity of

ourselves? And, Sir, what have we done? To put our action at the worst, we have disallowed a demand which was entirely for a new purpose and without which we have continued to exist so long. Even if we erred, our action did not go beyond leaving the things in *status quo*. What was then the harm in carrying out our wishes and giving us an opportunity to judge the result of our adverse vote? In the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, the authorities have done this, and India has not gone to pieces as yet. But what do we find here? We find the Government making eyes at us whenever we make an attempt to use our discretion and the Government forcing us somehow or other to go back upon our own decisions. I appeal to the members to bear in mind the dignity of the House when they go into the division lobby. Let not the members be carried away by a belief that a defeat to-day will teach the so-called opposition a much-needed lesson. For in a Government with an immovable executive, there can be no party opposition. All non-official members here must join hands and see that the Government is carried on in accordance with the wishes of the people, and that the dignity and honour of the House as a whole be not tarnished. Let the members remember that our first and foremost duty here is to secure the supremacy of the legislature over the executive. What was our position this time last year, and what is it to-day? Has the House pondered over it for a moment? Has not the House noticed how the official grip is tightened and is slowly but surely——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: May I rise to a point of order? Is the member in order in making these remarks?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You are not in order, Kumar Sahib. You must confine your attention to the motion before the House.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: If these remarks are unpleasant, I shall not make them. Once more I appeal to the House to ponder over all these before giving itself up, before foreswearing itself.

The following motion was deemed to be withdrawn, as the member was absent:—

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "That the demand of Rs. 41,615 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 3' for Extra Mounted Force for the Calcutta Police and running expenses of motor vehicles, be reduced to Rs. 25,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 41,615 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 3" be reduced by Rs. 13,000.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

As is understood, this is an unnecessary expenditure and I suggest that the whole amount be refused. We want to do good to our people, but at the same time we do not envy the Government. It is, however, for the Government either to accept or to reject the motion. As has been said by a Persian poet: "We have said much, but it has produced no effect."

I, however, withdraw my motion in favour of the motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I desire to support the motions which have been put before the Council. I desire to say that the decision which we came to on the previous occasion was the right one; that decision was based upon arguments and facts which were brought forward before the House. There was one prevailing idea in the minds of the members of the Council at that time, and that was the reduction of the police demand. We asked for a retrenchment committee to consider this reduction, and this committee is now sitting; it has not finished its deliberations, and yet there is this demand before us for a grant of Rs. 41,600. The reasons for this demand are not clear to the Council. The same state of things which existed in January last does exist now, and, therefore, it is a matter for the serious consideration of every member of the Council whether this grant—a grant of such a large amount as Rs. 41,600- is to be allowed. If we are told that our decision was faulty, my answer is that fresh materials have not been brought before us, which would justify us in admitting that our decision was wrong. We are told that the decision was given by a majority of one vote only, but, Sir, I have always preached in this Council that the voice of the majority must be carried, because there is a tone of finality attached to it. If we are asked to review our judgment, I complain that materials are not before the House, and if fresh materials are wanting—one should not ask that the judgment should be reviewed again and again. Whatever that may be, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has explained the reason why at the meeting of the Council in March last, the police grant was refused. Will it not be the duty of the members of the Council to stick to that decision? Will they prove themselves wise in such matters by changing their previous opinion unless fresh information on the subject is placed before them? It is for the confirmation of our previous opinion that I desire to say these few words in support of the motions.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: It is with diffidence that I rise to support the amendment of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, not because I do not feel sure that the position I am endorsing is correct, but because of the attendant circumstances which are known to all the

members of the Council. I must say that we have given to this subject much thought, attention, and even tribulation, and the candour with which His Excellency has treated us, and the confidence that he has been pleased to repose in us, make it incumbent on us to treat this amendment with the most anxious consideration, and the Government may rest assured that with the sympathetic attitude of the present head of the Government towards the powers and prestige of the Council, this Council, and certainly the opposition, will continue in its turn to pay the utmost regard to the wishes of His Excellency. I consider it, however, necessary to say that the rejection of the grant at the last Council, even though it was by one vote, does not imply that it was not an index of the true mind of the Council, or that it was an unconsidered measure. We know full well, and we ourselves have enunciated it, that a Budget grant ought not to be lightly interfered with, as the burden of the administration is on the shoulders of those who move for the grant, but there are some of us indeed who are apt to enshrine a budget grant, as a manifestation of a superior and sanctified wisdom. Such will always support the grant whatever the merits, and will always unduly weight the Government party with their support. But for those who oppose it, reasonable and powerful grounds must be made out for their opposition, and the grounds must be powerful enough to outweigh the sentiment attached to a Budget demand.

On general principles, namely, the distrust we entertain for the Calcutta Police and its administration, for its extravagance, no less than that for its methods, we should be justified in refusing grants that make for further expenditure, and my appeal on this point is particularly to my friends, the mufassal members. For we feel the deepest resentment for which we cannot find sufficient words, at the sight of a plethora of Deputy Commissioners of Police and Assistant Commissioners of Police sustaining the Commissioner of Police in Calcutta, we regard with dismay the onward march of expenditure in the number of new outposts and thanas created in the interests of the Police service, we view with alarm the increase in the number of officers and constables and sergeants and police accessories. Even that new arm, the Traffic Police, has earned for itself soon, too soon, an unenviable reputation that the rest of the Police service in Calcutta may very well be proud of.

Therefore, Sir, at this time we are not prepared, we ought not to be prepared, to grant any money to the Calcutta Police, which will add to their expenditure, unless we considered it absolutely essential. Now, Sir, I grant that the fact that we have been able to do with 20 Mounted Police for so long is in itself no ground for saying that we can do without them for ever, or that a new situation has not arisen to justify their existence. But the onus of proving this new situation is on the Government. How does the Government justify it? Not with reference to

a new situation which has come and passed, but by saying: "you yourselves have passed it some time ago, and this is your doing." The circumstances under which the Council endorsed it have been detailed by Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta, and it is clear that it was never the intention of the Council to add a permanent additional burden on the revenues. It was to meet an emergent measure, this is a question of fact, and these days of emergency have fortunately passed, and when the days of emergency passed and the Council noted it, it promptly refused the grant in the exercise of its political commonsense. And the expenditure, too, had been incurred by Government before it came to the Council for its sanction, and then it could say with some force that the expenditure having been incurred, and Government having undertaken a liability, it was our duty to provide the money. Let not then Government tell us that we were responsible for this body of police and throw the blame of its creation on us. Let them not tell us that we sanctioned a permanent measure, whatever the Hon'ble Member might have said in the midst of a demand of grant for an expenditure already incurred. Moreover, those of us in Calcutta who still remember the great days that we have passed through, would like to revise our judgment as regards ornamenting or strengthening the Calcutta Police and providing it with further weapons for riding roughshod, literally and metaphorically, over the people of Calcutta. And further, a position once justified cannot be considered always to be justified, but must continue to be justified—this is clearly the principle which underlies all budget demands—and though it is not given us to change our mind with every passing breeze, if we are certain, as we are certain in this instance, that this is nothing else than sheer extravagance, and sheer pomp, and a sheer attempt to fasten further chains round our necks, and that the need for a force created to meet an emergency has passed, then it is our duty, before this grows into a permanent institution, too firmly rooted to be dislodged, to do away with it now and prevent further and unnecessary burdens.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: His Excellency the Governor has placed us in a very delicate position. He has trusted us, and, therefore, it is our duty to consider this question impartially to the best of our judgment. I do not believe that His Excellency the Governor, if we vote against this grant, will exercise his power of certifying it. That is one reason why we should incline in favour of this grant. He has not however, told us what he has in his mind. Further, I was one of those who voted against this grant on the last occasion. It was then clearly understood that the grant that was then asked for, was for that period only. There was no intention of renewing it. I say this with perfect confidence. I have the highest authority for saying so. When a portion of the grant was refused by us, I was told that Government had made arrangements, and it would disturb those arrangements to refuse this grant. Now it was the bounden duty

of the Government, when asking for this grant, to tell us what reasons they had for renewing it. They did not state it at the time. They said, the increased Mounted Force and Motor Transport were sanctioned, and the cost for 1921-22 was voted by the Legislative Council in January. The demand for this year's expenditure was not voted, and His Excellency the Governor certified it. Is that a reason? It was their clear duty to give us reasons why they are renewing this demand. I am fully conscious, Sir, that Calcutta is a city not inhabited by the mild Hindu Bengalis now; they are in the minority; we know that the need for the preservation of the peace is much greater now than it was before, but the Government has not said that. They state that it is required for political offenders and political agitation; but that agitation has passed away. Why then should this grant be renewed? We have heard no reason whatsoever. I told the Council at the time that what was required was a strong hand at the head of the Government, and I believe that, with Lord Lytton, a strong hand has come. He is a man who knows his own mind, and, therefore, if the strong hand is there, the country should be at peace. That is my opinion. But if we have not got a strong hand holding the reins, millions of money spent on police will not keep the country in order. I say, therefore, you must have a strong hand and reduce expenditure and let the country have the benefits of strong rule, and then there will be no necessity for this increased expenditure.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I was one of those who spoke against a similar motion on the last occasion, and I may say at once that nothing has happened since then to induce me to change my opinion. The present discussion raises a very important question of principle, and it is for this reason that I have ventured to intervene in this debate and to take up the time of the Council even for a few minutes. On the last occasion, a similar demand was not voted by the Council, it is true, by a majority of one vote. Whatever the majority or minority may have been, that was the decision of the Council, and it was quite within His Excellency's rights, under the Government of India Act, to certify the grant. The question has again come up before the Council, because His Excellency refused to certify any money sufficient for expenditure beyond the month of July. Now, in my opinion, it is not quite fair to the Council to call upon the members to reconsider a decision once again on a point on which a decision has already been given. My reasons, Sir, are shortly these. His Excellency himself has referred to the popular will and has said in very clear and unambiguous language that he is going to abide by the popular will as expressed in the vote of this Council. Unfortunately, however, the popular will is seldom properly reflected in the Council. Between the popular will and our vote in the Council there intervene ministerial entertainments and high-seasoned dinners which cloud and warp our judgment and sometimes even unsettle our conscience.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You need not refer to these things.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Well, Sir, I will not dilate on these points. What I mean is this. Generally speaking, the vote in the Council is hardly a free vote. Therefore, to ask the Council over and over again to consider a matter is not fair to the members of the Council. They may have given their vote in one way. Circumstances may be different afterwards, and their vote may go the other way and then the whole blame will rest entirely on the Council and will reflect very adversely on their judgment.

My second point is that the money that has been raised by extra taxation should not be spent except on the most urgent schemes. The note that has been appended to the demand does not make out any case for urgency. It says that this demand was refused during the winter season. His Excellency the Governor certified only a small portion; this money is wanted now. Why this should be wanted at a time when the Retrenchment Committee is sitting is something which passes our comprehension. My point is that no urgency has been made out, and this demand may well stand over till the Retrenchment Committee finishes its labours.

My third point is this. Whenever a certain matter is discussed in the Council and an adverse vote is given in regard to it, that subject should be looked upon as one which ought to come up before the Retrenchment Committee for consideration. On the present subject the Council has debated and given a vote. This matter should therefore come up before, and be discussed by, the Retrenchment Committee and I submit that it will be stultifying the labours of that committee to ask the Council to pass this demand because, once the expenditure is increased, Government will say that no further retrenchment can be made.

On these three grounds, I beg to support these motions.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I oppose this demand and that very strongly, both on the ground of principle and of details. So far as the principle is concerned, I must say that I oppose every demand which is either wholly new or an enhanced one and which is a recurring one, so long as the Retrenchment Committee has not submitted its report. It is, to my mind, highly improper to put up a Retrenchment Committee on the one hand, and to go on increasing recurring demands on the other. I do not find any reason why Government could not wait for six months more. What I say I repeat again: Is the world coming to an end to-morrow? But for these additional sowars do we stand in imminent danger in Calcutta? I fail to understand why the Government should have insisted on demanding grants for such things without any reason whatsoever. I know something of its history which I shall give later on.

I find that in the place of 2 officers and 18 sowars, there are now 5 officers and 48 sowars and there is going to be a wanton increase of 3 more officers and 30 more sowars; sowars also mean horses and costly appendages too. The horses are to be the biggest of their kind each costing about Rs. 1,800. I do not see why Government could not wait for six months more to see the report of the Retrenchment Committee before they went on adding to the recurring expenditure. We passed the taxation Bills only the other day not merely for the purpose of wasting the proceeds on sowars and things of that kind. We had to agree to them most reluctantly, but we legitimately expected that the days were coming when greater attention would be paid to our own departments, to our own dear departments through our respected Ministers. But if you take away all money that is available, to be spent on the police and other pampered departments—great is our disappointment, and greater must be the disappointment of those of my friends here who opposed me and raised their hands with the Government for passing the taxation Bills. Did I not tell those gentlemen then not to expect that this money will be spent mainly for the Transferred Departments? Is this how the money that has been wrung out of us by taxation going to be spent on the police? I would certainly object to this being done.

Then, I come to my second ground. To my mind, it seems that by doing these things, the Government has already embarked on a project of getting the Retrenchment Committee discredited even before it has commenced its labours. People have already begun to tell us that there is a Retrenchment Committee going to sit and the recurring expenditure is going on increasing like anything. This is what people say. I am of opinion that such conduct on the part of the Government is most unfair to the committee and I am sure the ablest officials of Government cannot justify this.

The Government ought to be awake to the necessity of helping departments other than the police and the reserved departments which are pampered enough at the present moment and which can be left alone. If you do not look to our legitimate ambition, and to our most pressing needs, sanitation, education, co-operation, etc., we cannot love you. We may be afraid of you; with the increase of the Police our fear for the Government may grow more and more, but our love for Government must dwindle. If I am not a hypocrite, I must declare that the more you go on like this, riding roughshod over our sentiments and feelings and sacrificing our dearest interests in the matter of sanitation, education, industries, public health, etc., for things of this description, the more you deprive us of the pleasure of loving you the worse it is both for the Government and ourselves. I again repeat that we may be afraid of you; your sowars may inspire us with fear and terror but they can never draw love from our hearts which alone ought to be the aim of Government.

Then, as regards details, I know what the sowars are for; almost everybody here knows. We know how useful these people are! The appointment of these men was discussed in the Police Standing Committee and I, who am a member of the committee, opposed it at that time. But it was urged that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was coming to Calcutta, and they would be of great use in handling traffic and unruly crowds, and in maintaining law and order at that time, and it was carried. I opposed it then; I opposed it subsequently in this Council; I oppose it now and will oppose it for all time to come because whatever is improper and useless must be eschewed under all circumstances. These sowars make a good show, no doubt, but they can well be dispensed with. They are just as useful as His Excellency the Governor's Bodyguard and no more! Why shall we be made to pay for these unnecessary appendages while we are in the grip of a financial crisis, surrounded by an atmosphere of all-round retrenchment? I know Government members will smile, but let them do so; it makes very little difference to me.

Then, I come to one thing more and I have finished. There is, to my mind, an idea why the Government press for these things again—and in this matter I am only appealing to my brethren, the elected members. When we oppose a thing or reject a thing not only once but twice, still the Government comes up with it. Why is it so? The answer evidently is this. The Government must have found that there is some weakness, some latent defect in us, which prevents us from doing our duty, and the Government seem to take advantage of that. I will ask the House not to show any weakness, but to straightaway refuse the grant and let the Government know that we are not going to allow these things.

One word more and I have finished. I am sorry that in spite of what His Excellency the Governor said in opening this session of the Council in this connection, expressing his hope that we shall pass it, I am obliged to oppose this grant, because the merest justice to my motherland—and I am here to serve my motherland—demands that I shall oppose it. And I desire all my brethren who have been elected and who have come here to serve the real interests of the country to oppose this demand.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I am afraid that the eloquence this afternoon has been somewhat one-sided; that is not because I could not have asked the gentlemen who are going to vote with me to speak against this motion; but because of certain complaints that have been made recently of the short time allowed for these motions and because of an incident last cold weather when it was complained that Government members took up too much of the limited time of the Council so that private members could not have it all their own way. I would ask the Council to put aside the thundering eloquence of some members and the specious pleading of others that a majority of one is

more representative of the heart of the House than a majority of 26, and to come down to the real facts of the case before the House now. The House has been asked to vote this grant in order to enable us to continue for the remainder of the year—and I say frankly for the future, as there seems to be some misunderstanding about the past—the provision of a force of 5 head constables and 48 sowars for Calcutta. There is, however, one preliminary point that I should like to urge on the attention of the Council and that is with reference to the plea that the matter should be left to the Retrenchment Committee. It seems to be forgotten that if the House rejects this motion, the matter will not go before the Retrenchment Committee at all. How is the Retrenchment Committee going to express its opinion if the Council do not pass this grant? It is no use saying, "we must stop all work." I can appreciate the argument that we should not spend a penny more in any circumstances; but I cannot understand the argument that we should not go on with the services or do the things which we are convinced are necessary, because of the Retrenchment Committee sitting. If you vote this grant, it may go before the Retrenchment Committee and if you do not vote it, it will never go before that body.

I should now like to discuss the motion from three points of view: first, the necessity for the force, which has not been touched on at all; secondly, the Council's responsibility in the matter, which has been touched upon to some extent; and, thirdly and lastly, the wicked and wanton extravagance of refusing the grant that I ask for.

The duties of a mounted force are incidentally not political in any way. Primarily, their duties are to control traffic; secondly, their duties are to cope with big crowds; and thirdly, they are extremely useful as a security force. It cannot be contended, I think by any member of this Council, that the traffic in Calcutta is not increasing by leaps and bounds, and that we do not want every form of force we can get to control that traffic. As regards the crowds, I would ask any member here who has seen the crowd that gathers on any Saturday afternoon on the maidan, whether anything but a mounted force can possibly cope with it; when a crowd of that size gets out of hand, there is no arm of the police force in the world except a mounted force that can deal with it. I think anybody who has lived in Calcutta, even for a few years, will bear me out that the large crowds that attend football matches have increased beyond all knowledge within the last 10 or 15 years. The Commissioner of Police is greatly concerned about them. We are trying at the present moment an experiment of enclosed stands as a means of dealing with such crowds. Whether they will be effective or not I do not know. But the one thing that is certain is that when you have got a big crowd in any place like the maidan, there is no force which can deal with it but a mounted force. It is not merely for the big crowds on the maidan that we want the mounted police; there are big religious processions which require escorting through the streets; there are large public entertainments such as those which

take place on a Royal Visit and on similar occasions; and in all these the mounted police are essential. As a security force it is a substitute for armed police. The Inspector-General of Police recently referred to Scotland Yard for advice as to what they find to be the most efficacious method of dealing with unruly mobs and the answer was that not only in London, but in the whole of England and in the Continent too, the experience was the same that in dealing with unruly mobs in open spaces or in fairly wide streets, the mounted police armed with single-sticks are the most humane and efficacious agency. The Metropolitan mounted branch in London has recently been reorganised and largely increased. So I maintain that there is ample work in Calcutta for a mounted branch; but it is ridiculous to treat a force consisting of 2 head-constables and 18 sowars as a mounted branch. The Mounted Police in Calcutta is not a new thing. In 1860, the strength of the mounted force consisted of 10 sowars; in 1884, it was increased to 6 sergeants and 16 sowars. Prior to 1905 the Indian strength was increased to 35 sowars; in 1900 it was reduced to 20, the European strength being as they are now, *viz.*, one inspector and 10 sergeants and I may mention that these sergeants *per se* though sometimes used as a mounted force when the occasion arises, are recruited for other duties and have to perform other work. In 1912, the present strength was fixed at 2 head-constables and 18 sowars. I do not wish to compare this force with that in London or in any other continental city; but in comparison with other cities in India, we find that in Bombay, the area of which is less than that of Calcutta by 8½ square miles, the force consists of 1 risaldar, 2 jemadars, 18 head-constables and 79 sowars, that is a total of 100 men in all, and that is in a city smaller than Calcutta in area. In Lahore, there are 1 sub-inspector, 2 head-constables and 22 sowars—a larger force than we had in November last. In Delhi, there are 25 sub-inspectors and 40 sowars, besides a European strength of 11 inspectors and 9 sergeants. I may therefore put it to the Council that the mounted force is wanted and wanted very badly in Calcutta. It is not a question of having gone on for a long time and therefore being able to go on for another six months more. Every day we do so, we take a great responsibility. It is perfectly true that the knowledge how weak and deficient we were, was forced upon us at the time of the His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' visit. At that time, the Commissioner of Police was asked to place before us the measures he proposed to take in order to safeguard His Royal Highness here. He pointed out to us that the one thing he wanted, which he had not got, was a sufficient force of mounted police. Once it was driven home on Government, I think the Council will agree with me that we would have taken a very grave responsibility if we had not come to the Council to get that addition which was imperatively necessary.

Then, Sir, I come to my second point, *viz.*, the responsibility of the Council. There appears to have been a considerable amount of difference of view as to what the members' opinions were in January and in

March last. Some members have said that they were strictly told that it was a permanent measure and, therefore, they voted against it. Others said that they were distinctly told that it was a temporary measure. On this point, on the 19th January, we circulated a memorandum to every member of this Council in which it was stated:—

The measures taken recently to enable Government to cope with threatened disturbances of the public peace includes the strengthening of the police force and equipment in the following respect. The mounted branch of the Calcutta Police, consisting of 2 headconstables and 18 sowars is inadequate to carry out their duties for which mounted police are suitable and necessary and an additional permanent force of 3 headconstables and 30 sowars is required.

I submit that this memorandum was put in the hands of every member of the Council before the debate came on.

In the course of the debate this afternoon, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has read some portions of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler's speech. I may perhaps refer to one or two other portions. Sir Henry Wheeler said:—

There are various items in the list of that kind and all the demands are explained in the printed memorandum which, I think, members have read.

The first is the strengthening of the mounted force in the city. It may surprise the Council to learn that in a city of this size, in spite of the known value of mounted police in controlling crowds, we only have 2 head constables and 18 sowars.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri who spoke first said:—

Further, we should take care to consider how much recurring expenditure we shall be committed to by voting for the demand. It will be seen on referring to the memorandum that has been circulated in this connection that in this demand is included a demand of Rs. 1,23,603 for establishment, that is staff and equipment on a permanent basis.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, who now confesses to a suspicion that it was going to be a permanent addition, said in January last:—

In saying what I have to say, I may tell the Council that I oppose any increment to the recurring charge of the Police Department.

Again in his reply, Sir Henry Wheeler said:—

The other financial objection taken has been to the recurring expenditure. Here again, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri says that in the circumstances he will swallow anything permanent, but he will object to anything recurring. Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri is perhaps misled as to what the amount of this recurring expenditure is.

I therefore submit to the Council that there cannot be any question that in January this demand for additional mounted police was put forward as a permanent addition to the Calcutta mounted force; and on the Council passing the vote for the demand put forward, Government was entitled to believe that they had the sanction of the Council to the permanent addition to the mounted police. Well, Sir, I am far from saying that it is not the privilege of the Council to change their mind; but I do submit that we had asked for the sanction of the Council to

enlist this force and that we enlisted this force permanently on the strength of the vote of the Council (Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: Question). The Council has some responsibility for this step. We have taken these men on permanently on the strength of their vote. They have been collected and recruited from all over India. They have been brought down and promised permanent employment and trained in their duties. We have told them now that the question of their permanent employment rests with the decision of this Council. We are advised that the legal position is not all clear. We have told them that we have money up to the end of this month and if this grant is refused, we shall dismiss them. I mention that, because it is possible that I shall have to come up for a fresh grant for the purpose of paying any compensation to which these men may be legally entitled. My purpose in mentioning this matter is not to convey a threat in any way. The point that I wish to press on the Council is that they have incurred some responsibility to the men whom we have already recruited.

Turning now to the third point. On the strength of the vote in January, we have purchased 33 horses at a cost of Rs. 26,400. We have purchased saddlery at a cost of Rs. 9,800 and kits at a cost of Rs. 8,451. If the Council refuses this vote, we shall, of course, have to sell the horses and the saddlery and they will have to be sold at a very considerable loss. It is estimated that the loss on a sale including the three items will be something like Rs. 20,000. That may sound a small sum, but I am perfectly convinced that by next year the Council will be forced to recognise the absolute necessity of giving this mounted force to the police, and that being so, it is to my mind wanton extravagance to sell at a loss 33 valuable horses which have now been thoroughly trained and are fit for their work.

There is one other point which I would mention. This item of mounted police which has been objected to also includes the cost of running motor conveyances for the remainder of the year. The motor conveyances were sanctioned by the Council at the meeting of January last and on the strength of that sanction we purchased vehicles at a cost Rs. 57,850. It was stated in the memorandum that this transport was intended not only for use for His Royal Highness's visit but as a permanent addition to the Calcutta Police. The recurring expenditure of Rs. 13,800 was also mentioned. The motor vehicles were asked for by Government because they added considerably to the strength of the Police Force by adding to its mobility. I am told we have purchased two lorries, four motor cycles, one prison van which are all being used at the present time in Calcutta. The point has not been touched upon by any of the speakers. Therefore, I am not sure what the views of the Council are with regard to this matter—whether the transport should continue to be used or should be sold. If the vehicles are to be sold, the loss will be heavy and we shall have to come before the Council in a very

short time for replacement of the transport. I say that the motor vehicles have added very much to the strength of the Calcutta Police, so much so indeed that in discussing it with the Commissioner of Police, he told me recently that he was quite prepared to consider the question of the possibility of reducing the number of police constables on account of these motor vehicles. I put before the Council what I think are convincing arguments why all these motions should be rejected. As has been explained the responsibility rests with the Council and I do ask the Council to put aside all considerations such as have been put forward in Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's speech and come down to the bed-rock question—do we want these men or do we not. If we do want them let us vote for them.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I ask one question? When was this extra mounted police force appointed and were they appointed before the Council voted for them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I cannot give the exact date, but they were appointed temporarily. The recruitment of the mounted police was a gradual process as we had to collect men from almost all parts of India. These extra men have been appointed permanently after the vote of the Council.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Were not these mounted police officers—18 sowars and 2 head-constables—apopinted at the time of Sir Stuart Hogg and that during the last 40 years no necessity has ever been felt for an increase?

Mr. H. E. SPRY: I submit it is not a question, it is a speech.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: It is a simple question, it is not a speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I have given all the facts to the House. I have given the detailed history of additions and decrease in the force since 1860.

Two or three other members having risen to ask some more questions, the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson said, "Sir, I have given all the facts and I strongly object to this bombardment of questions."

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.

Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Faziul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kisher.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinas Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Morgan, Mr. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 36 and the Noes 56, the motion was lost.

The following motion was then put and lost:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 41,615 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 3' for Extra Mounted Force and running expenses of motor vehicles of the Calcutta Police Force, be reduced by Rs. 33,565, being the cost for the Extra Mounted Force."

The following motion which stood in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 735 for grant of duty allowance to the Instructor, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Calcutta Police Training School under head '26.—Police—Scheme 4' be refused."

The following motion, which stood in the name of Maulvi Mahammed Madassur Hussain was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

" That the demand for the grant of Rs. 735 under head ' 26.—Police Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Scheme 4' grant of duty allowance to the Instructor, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Calcutta Police Training School, be refused."

The following motion, which stood in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

" That the demand of Rs. 20,000 under head ' 26.—Police—Scheme 5' be refused."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 20,000 under head " 26.—Police—Scheme 5 " be refused.

In this connection——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I may tell members that we have got about 75 minutes more at our disposal and there are nearly 75 motions. So you had better try to be as brief as possible.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: In this connection I find that it is proposed to increase the grant under head "contingencies" from Rs. 96,000 to Rs. 1,16,000. I desire to point out that last year, the budget grant was Rs. 87,000 under this particular head. It was reduced to Rs. 93,000. The year preceding last year 1920-21, the actual was Rs. 84,000. Then there is another plain fact and that is this, that the total expenditure on account of the Presidency Police is Rs. 32,91,000 or roughly speaking about Rs. 33,00,000. Now the contingencies under the different heads, I find, if my addition is correct, comes to about Rs. 5½ lakhs both contract and non-contract contingency under different heads, and it seems to me—again if my calculation is correct—that about 16 to 17 per cent. of that amount is swallowed up under contingencies. Then, having regard to the expenditure of the last year and the previous year, I do not see that there is any urgent necessity to increase this amount again by Rs. 20,000. As I have shown, last year the allotment was Rs. 87,000 and it was increased to Rs. 93,000 and, in the previous year, I believe, the expenditure was Rs. 84,000 or thereabouts. It will therefore be seen that there is no urgent necessity until the matter has been fully gone into by the Retrenchment Committee. There is no misgiving that Government would come to a deadlock if this additional sum is not granted. I, therefore, desire to point out that out of the total contingent grant of Rs. 33,00,000 over Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 lakhs go towards this, and having regard to all these facts there is no necessity of our voting this amount at the present moment.

There is another factor which is to be borne in mind. There is lump provision of Rs. 1,00,000 to meet any unexpected contingency Having regard to the temper of the present time and having regard t the tranquil state of affairs, I think that amount will also be availabl to Government. If an urgent necessity arises to increase the amour for contingencies, I think we can do that without trenching upon th surplus that we have now. If it is so required we may transfer tha sum at a later stage, but at the present moment I do not see any nece sity of making a grant of Rs. 20,000 under the head of " contingencies.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 20,0(under head " 26—Police—Scheme 5," be reduced by Rs. 2,000.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is a follows:—

As there is no time, I simply move my motion for the acceptance c the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I hope to be able to con vince the House that the addition is not unnecessary. It is necessar because of a mistake made in the Budget. The mover, no doubt, i aware that under contract contingencies a sum of money is allotted fc five years and it covers certain items of departmental expenditure We are dealing now with the contract contingencies of the Commissione of Police. They were fixed at Rs. 64,000 in April, 1918. The pa of the menials was revised shortly afterwards in 1920, and the increas comes up to Rs. 5,616. This was an additional item and we had to pa for it. The Calcutta Armed Police had a contract contingency of thei own. In 1920, the Accountant-General amalgamated it with the Com missioner of Police's account and so an addition of Rs. 3,112 was made In 1921, the Accountant-General did the same with the contingency fo the running of motor cars for which there was a separate provision o Rs. 10,000 which was amalgamated. The same process was followed i the case of the Police Training School and their contract contingenc of Rs. 4,728 was amalgamated; and lastly, the same process was gon through with the contract contingency of the Public Vehicles Depart ment. The mover may take it from me that the total of that is Rs 97,35 and that was accepted last year by the Finance Department as bein the proper contract contingent grant to the Commissioner of Police Last year an additional grant had to be made to the Commissioner o Police to meet the surcharge of electric light. It was a very seriou item and the cost was about Rs. 6,000. Another Rs. 4,000 was adde at the same time to meet the increase in the cost of the articles whic had to be purchased out of contract contingencies. This year th increased pay of the menials sanctioned from July last year has to b provided for the 12 months of this year. Therefore, we have to mak another grant of Rs. 9,132. These three grants added on to the contrac

grant of last year make up a total of Rs. 1,16,488. The amount provided in the budget is Rs. 96,000. Therefore, we come before the House for the remaining Rs. 20,000. To put it in another way, the last year's provision sanctioned by the Finance Department and actually spent was Rs. 1,07,356. This year we are adding another Rs. 9,000, which we will have to pay for the menials, and, therefore, the sum comes up to Rs. 1,16,000. I am afraid we cannot do with less. I therefore ask the House to pass this.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Was not this Rs. 9,000 anticipated when the Budget was framed?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This increase is meant for the pay of the menials.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur's motion was then put and lost.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motion was then put and lost.

The following motion, which stood in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,600 under head '26.—Police-Scheme 7 be refused."

RAJA MANILOLL SINGH ROY: A few days ago I was asked——

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Can the member speak it without moving his motion?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You had better move your motion first.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,000 under head "26.—Police—Presidency Police—Contingencies—Scheme 8" for supplying iron cots to constables and head-constables of the Howrah Special Traffic Force, be refused.

A few days ago I was asked to have a look at the iron cots and the wooden *charpoys* at Lal Bazar barrack and I did it. The wooden *charpoys* are covered with planks and are not liked by the people who use them. The iron cots are undoubtedly more durable and are liked by the people and I beg to withdraw my motion with the leave of the Council. But I think, Sir, Rs. 27 for each of the cots is too much, and I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member to it.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: May I ask for your ruling, Sir? Is the member entitled to speak after he has withdrawn his motion?

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,000 for iron cots under " 26.—Police—Calcutta Police—Scheme 8 " be reduced to Rs. 300.

Hitherto wooden *charpoys* were the rule for the constables. These are inexpensive, can be easily moved about, and in case of infection can be burnt down without much loss. But if the policy of providing iron cots to constables be adopted, those advertised by the Munitions Board should be at once procured. These are excellent and sanitary and the Munitions Board are selling them at Rs. 7-8 each. The Munitions Board is making a reduction when these cots are bought for hospitals, etc. If bought forthwith, and if a timely application be made to the Munitions Board, these 37 cots can be had at Rs. 277-8. I have therefore, moved for the reduction.

Mr. J. DONALD: Our only difficulty in meeting the suggestion of the mover is that the Munitions Department have got no more beds left, so we have to purchase them from somewhere else. The sum is only Rs. 1,000, but we shall try to make it less and see if we can get the things cheaper.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions, which stood in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand of Rs. 1,000 under head ' 26.—Police—Scheme' be reduced by Rs. 500."

" That the demand of Rs. 315 under head ' 26.—Police—Scheme 9' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 9,000 for purchase of equipment under head '26.—Police—Contingencies—Scheme 10 ' be reduced to Rs. 5,000.

The demand is for a hospital unit. The Police Hospital is not a new creation. It has been removed from its former habitation (Amherst Street) to the spacious and most commodious buildings at Bhowanipur. Unless all the equipments were sold along with the buildings and the land, it is difficult to realise the necessity of going in for a complete fresh equipment at once. In any case, if the authorities are anxious to have a fresh equipment, there is a way within their reach. The Munitions Board is offering to sell complete sets of hospital equipments at a very cheap rate and when required for charitable purposes (and not for trade purposes), the Munitions Board grants a large reduction. I, therefore, think that utilizing the old furniture and equipment where possible, and buying from the Munitions Board where necessary, the demand can be considerably reduced. I am afraid in framing the supplementary demands the authorities did not always remember that

our Budget is not a prosperity budget. The money which has been made available was secured by special legislation and by fresh taxation in a country which could ill-afford to meet its normal expenditure.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 9,000 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 10" for furniture and equipment of the new Calcutta Police Hospital, be reduced by Rs. 450.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

The previous speaker has given the details. I do not therefore intend to repeat what he has said, but simply move my motion for acceptance.

Mr. J. DONALD: In this matter I am quite prepared to see what we can get from the Munitions Board as has been suggested. Even if the total sum is voted we shall do our best to cut it down as far as we can. I cannot say definitely whether we shall be able to make a saving, but if we get these things cheaper from the Munitions Board, we shall certainly see that the wishes of the Council are carried out in this matter.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 24,230 under head "26.—Police—District Executive Force" for the revision of the pay of Deputy Superintendents of Police, be refused.

This is one of the most extraordinary demands that has come before the Council. Only a couple of years ago, the Deputy Superintendents of Police got a good revision of pay, with restrospective effect in the bargain, and I do not know what has happened since then to allow them another increase, which practically takes them up to the level of the Bengal Civil Service. There is a difference between the Bengal Civil Service and the Bengal Police Service and the difference of pay must be proportionately large. If I am not much mistaken, nearly three months ago, a deputation of Deputy Superintendents of Police waited on Sir Henry Wheeler with a prayer for an increase of pay, and, I believe, Sir Henry Wheeler, in his reply to the deputation, said that they had not made out any good case and he refused to give them any further increase. In view of that, I do not see how the Government can now come forward and propose a further increase in their pay and ask for a supplementary grant for that purpose.

Then again, in this Council, a resolution was passed demanding that no further appointments should be made in the Imperial Police Service to fill up the vacancies in that service and the suggestion was made that the present Deputy Superintendents of Police should be made Assistant Superintendents of Police, thus gradually paving the way for the Indianisation of the Police Service. In view of the decided opinion of

the Council in this matter, I do not see why we should give an increment of pay to a service which is likely to be abolished very soon. We have heard to-day in reply to a question that, for want of funds the ministerial officers—the officers who really cannot make both ends meet and many of whom have to starve—cannot be given the benefit of the revision suggested by this Council, and here, to-day we are asked to grant a further increase in the pay of the Deputy Superintendents who are already in receipt of a handsome pay. This is the sort of mentality of the Government which brings discontent amongst the masses.

With these few words, I beg to move my amendment.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: It appears from the Budget that though we have been called upon to sanction a grant of Rs. 24,230, we shall have to sanction every year Rs. 36,000. Is this the proper time to make a further increment in the police charges? Government have already appointed a committee—and a very strong committee—for the retrenchment of expenditure. Until the report of the committee is submitted, I do not think we shall be justified in sanctioning this increased expenditure. It will appear from the Budget that one-fifth of the total revenue is expended to meet the police charges. It is quite unprecedented and we have been called upon to incur further expenditure. It appears from the note appended against the item that the existing time-scale of pay for the Deputy Superintendents was sanctioned by the Government of India in January, 1920—that is, only two years ago an increment of pay has been sanctioned by the Government of India, and now we are again called upon to sanction a further increment. It has been stated that a representation has been made by these officers for further increment. Now, let us see whether they are justified in their demand or not. They have asked Government to be put on the same level as the Bengal Civil Service. Do they possess the same qualifications? Would it be justifiable to give them the same scale of pay? Have we passed the taxation Bills simply to meet the expenditure on the police? I do not think that that was the intention with which the Legislature has passed these Bills. Now is the time for retrenchment, and we should try our best to reduce our expenditure.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not wish to take up much time of the Council. I fully agree that this demand is unnecessary. To my mind, the creation of these posts is unnecessary. The duties now performed by these officers were formerly done by inspectors. I do not know whether these posts will be retained by the Retrenchment Committee. At least this is not the time that any permanent addition should be made to the police expenditure.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 24,230 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 11' be reduced by Rs. 2,430."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The Provincial Police Service for which an increase of pay is asked is a comparatively new service. It was only started after the Police Commission's report. Its object was; firstly, to provide an outlet for the subordinate Indian Police, and secondly, to do the same work which was being done by the Assistant Superintendents of Police. Under the system of recruitment to the Imperial Police cadre, the number of Assistant Superintendents of Police recruited depends not on the amount of work but on the number of superior appointments open to Assistant Superintendents.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri says that the work was previously done by inspectors. It was because there was no one else to do it; properly speaking it was not inspectors' work. The Provincial Service is recruited partly directly and partly by promotion from the rank of inspector. It has the same relation to the Imperial Police as the Bengal Civil Service has to the Indian Civil Service and 11 per cent. of the superior appointments in the Imperial Service are earmarked as listed posts for the Provincial Service. Thus, this Provincial Police Service is a very important part of the police structure of the province. It is not, as Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri seems to think, a mere excrescence to be thrown away, and I would ask the Council to seriously consider what in the future, near or distant, is going to be the position of the Provincial Police Service when the police is Indianised and when there is provincial autonomy. To my mind under the provincial autonomy there can be no other service than the Provincial Police Service which must be expected to take up the work of the Imperial Police. I would ask the House to remember therefore that it is a very important service and that it will occupy an important position in the future structure of the autonomous province. Originally there were 4 grades—one on Rs. 250, one on Rs. 350, one on Rs. 400 and one on Rs. 500. On the reorganisation of the several services whereby time-scales were introduced, a time-scale was also introduced in the Provincial Police Service. This time-scale began at Rs. 200 and went up to Rs. 600 in the 25th year with a selection grade on Rs. 700. As a matter of fact, the time-scale benefited not a single man in the Police service. Theoretically a time-scale is better than the grades, but it so happened that this being a new service, the men were scattered over the four grades and when they were brought on to the time-scale none of them was benefited and Government had as a matter of fact to bring them on to a higher stage than the number of years' service warranted. They memorialised—not only the Provincial Police of Bengal but the Provincial police of the other provinces—also to the Secretary of State and pointed out that as a matter of fact they were worse off than before when they began on Rs. 250. They also pointed out that they were also worse off than any other provincial service, and discontent among them was a very serious matter. The Government of India considered all these things and they wrote to us and said that there was a general

opinion among the provinces that there ought to be the same amelioration for the provincial police services by increasing the maximum and by speeding up the increments. We considered this and came to the conclusion than it was not justifiable to start them on Rs. 200, when the other provincial services started on Rs. 250, and we decided that they should also start on Rs. 250, and secondly, that, having regard to what has been done for the other provincial services in Bengal, there was a good case for increasing the maximum to which the Deputy Superintendents of police could rise, and consequently, it was necessary to speed up the increments so that an officer could get this maximum at the same time he would have got the old one under the old scale, that is, in his 25th year.

That is all we have done. We have raised the initial pay to Rs. 250 from Rs. 200, we have raised the maximum from Rs. 600 to Rs. 700, with a selection grade on Rs. 800, and in order that a man can go through the whole service in 25 years and when he retires can draw the maximum, we have accelerated the increments. It is very slight. I quite appreciate the motive of the mover of this resolution. Doubtless, the question of pay of all the provincial services will come within the purview of the Retrenchment Committee, but what I would put before the Council is that, if we are convinced that the Provincial Police as compared with the Bengal Civil Service should have these extra increments, it is not fair to keep them as the only Provincial Service in Bengal without their due emoluments. Let them all be treated together in the same manner. If the Retrenchment Committee decide that the pay of the Provincial Services is too much, let them cut the pay of all. But I would put it to the Council that it would be a source of great discontent to these officers if theirs should be the only service which is not to be allowed the full benefits of the time-scale.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu Amulya Dhone Addy called for a division which he afterwards withdrew.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: May I rise to a point of order? After the Chair has said that the Noes have it, is it open to a member to call for a division?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: I think the ordinary procedure in the Imperial Assembly is that after the Ayes and Noes have expressed their views by calling out, the President says: "I think the Noes have it" or "I think the Ayes have it" as the case may be. Then after a short interval if the view of the President is not challenged by further calls, the President says: "The Noes have it" or "the Ayes have it." After that it is not open to any member to call for a division.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: This has been followed during the last year and a half.

THE DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The point does not arise on the present occasion, as the call for a division has been withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 2,205 under head " 26.—Police—Scheme 13," for the entertainment of assistant accountants in District Police offices, be refused.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

This seems to be a new provision altogether and an unnecessary expenditure to appoint assistant accountants in the District Police offices My idea is that if it is once accepted, items of such expenditure will come yearly before us. One office or other will say that some offices have got it why should we not get it? The Government should know that they have a deficit which is being tried to be met with by the income of the newly-passed taxation Bills. In our zamindari affairs we try our best not to incur any additional expenditure when there is a deficit, but to curtail the same as far as practicable. Government should, I think, adopt the same principle.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I think it may be said that after swallowing so many camels, I should not strain at a gnat. On principle I object to the demand however. After scrutinising the statement, I find that there is a large army of clerks and others in the ministerial establishment, and I repeat that it will be rather hampering the Retrenchment Committee by piling upon the establishment at this stage. However, it is useless dilating on the subject because we have already swallowed so many camels and it is no good straining at a gnat.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The accountants in the police offices have the financial work of the district police to do, namely, drawing pay bills, travelling allowance bills, contingent bills and so forth. The Accountant-General has been steadily pressing upon the Inspector-General of Police that the accounts work in the district police office is too much for the accountant and it is chiefly at his instance or rather that of the local auditor that an assistant accountant was sanctioned in 1918 for Dacca, Tippera, Faridpur and Mymensingh; in 1919, we gave one to the 24-Parganas and in 1921 another to Hooghly. It is now proposed to extend the system to other districts. I have figures giving the number of cheques, travelling allowance bills, etc., made out and drawn. I need not weary the Council by reading extracts. If any member wishes to convince himself by going through them I shall be very glad to show these details to him. I am sorry not to see Babu Surendra Nath Mallik here—he undertook to look into this matter whether an extra accountant was necessary or not in the 24-Parganas

Police office, but I do not know whether he had time to do that. What Government are asking this for is to obviate the danger of defalcations in the district police offices where the accountant's work is in arrears. The danger of defalcations and swindling has very much increased, and we are taking this step on the advice of our accounts officers.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 700 under head "26.—Police—District Police—Scheme 14," for the grant of a conveyance allowance to the Additional Superintendent of Police posted to Dacca, be refused.

I do not know whether all the members of the Council have read the explanation that has been given in connection with this demand, because it is rather curious reading. This gentleman who does not get any travelling allowance, because he does not go beyond the five-mile radius of his city is to be allowed an allowance of Rs. 100 a month for going round the town of Dacca. Is it not an extravagant demand? I have myself been in the town of Dacca and it is very easy to go from one end of the town to another on a bicycle in less than an hour's time. I do not understand why a motor allowance should be allowed to this officer for the purpose of going about the town.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 700 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 14" for the grant of a conveyance allowance to the Additional Superintendent of Police posted to Dacca, be reduced by Rs. 175.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

I endorse the views of the previous speaker. As no motion is being carried, I move for the reduction of Rs. 175 on the ground that the work can be managed if the conveyance allowance be reduced from Rs. 100 to Rs. 75.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The town of Dacca has an area of 6½ square miles. The Superintendent of Police, Dacca, was given a motor car allowance in 1916, subject to the condition that he would draw no travelling allowance for any journey beyond the five-mile radius which he performed if he returned on the same day, that is to say, his ordinary travelling allowance was curtailed. The Additional Superintendent of Police was given the allowance in 1918. The principle of a conveyance allowance is that it is given to those officers who have a great deal of travelling to do within a small range. The Additional Superintendent of Police, Dacca, is mainly in charge of the town work. He does not tour very much, but he has to go round the town of Dacca constantly. Many of us, no doubt, know that the civil station is a long way from the town, and it was represented to us that it was

impossible to get a conveyance in the civil station. I have been asked whether a motor cycle would not be sufficient. It will be observed that we have asked for an allowance for a motor cycle for the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Howrah. It is for the Council to consider whether an Additional Superintendent of Police, who is a *pucca* Superintendent of Police and a senior official, should be given an allowance for a motor cycle for going about the town of Dacca, and therefore, I would ask the Council to oppose this motion.

The motions of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were then put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn :—

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: "That the demand of Rs. 700 under head '26.—Police—District Police—Scheme 14,' for the grant of a conveyance allowance to the Additional Superintendent of Police posted to Dacca, be reduced by half."

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 700 under head '26.—Police—District Police—Allowance—Scheme 14' be reduced by Rs. 350."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move the motion that stands in my name, that the demand of Rs. 350 under head "26.—Police—District Police—Scheme 15," for the grant of a conveyance allowance to the Assistant or Deputy Superintendent of Police posted to Howrah, be refused.

The reason is the same as that urged by me in moving my last motion. This gentleman can very well go about on an ordinary bicycle. Howrah is a smaller town than Dacca, and I do not see any reason why we should give him this luxury.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I beg to support the motion.

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Mahammed Madassur Hussain was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 350 under head '26.—Police—District Police—Scheme 15,' for the grant of a conveyance allowance to the Assistant or Deputy Superintendent of Police posted to Howrah be reduced by half."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 350 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 15," for the grant of a conveyance allowance to the Assistant or Deputy Superintendent of Police posted to Howrah, be reduced by Rs. 70.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, the translation of which is as follows:—

I move that it may be reduced by Rs. 70. There will be no harm if the conveyance is reduced to Rs. 40.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Howrah, far from being a small town, has a jurisdiction of 10 square miles. It has five police-stations and 19 sections, with a force of 69 head-constables and 564 constables. The Assistant or the Deputy Superintendent of Police is in charge of the town police. He has to cover a large area and has to go out at any hour of the day or night and see that the constables are alert. It is essential that he should have a motor bicycle because he may be called upon at any moment to go round the mill area. In case of any disturbance, it is essential that he should be able to get at the spot with the least possible delay. We have cut it down to a motor cycle although a motor cycle is not, I think, an ideal method of going round the town to see that the constables are alert, as it makes a lot of noise.

The motions of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were then put and lost.

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 23,842 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 16' be reduced by Rs. 2,382."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 7,921 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 17," for the purchase of a motor lorry for the Howrah District Police, be refused.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

It appears that something was spent last year. This expenditure is unnecessary. There is no time. I therefore simply move the amendment.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,161 under head "26.—Police—Contingencies—Scheme 17," for the purchase of a motor lorry for the Howrah district and for its running expenses, be refused.

I must tell the Council at the outset that my motion is somewhat different from the previous motion. My friend, Shah Sahib, would refuse even the running expenses of the motor lorry, *i.e.*, the prison van that had been provided for last winter, but my refusal only relates to the new motor lorry that is now demanded for police transport. This is surely an illustration of how appetite grows by eating. Last January when a memorandum was circulated to explain the necessity for the supplementary Police demand of Rs. 2,08,462, it was said in that memorandum that for Howrah a motor prison van which could also be used

for the transport of police, when necessary, was required. We were, therefore, under the impression that this motor van would be used for police transport as well. But, now the Government, encouraged by the readiness with which such grants have been given by the Council and probably further encouraged by the ample money that is now available——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: It will shorten the discussion if I say at this stage that I accept his motion.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: We, half a dozen members, are all honoured by this acceptance of the motion by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: What I accept is that this Rs. 6,161 be struck out, leaving Rs. 1,760 in the Budget.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I ask for information? I understand that the Hon'ble Member withdraws his demand for the purchase of a second motor lorry and the cost of its maintenance from 1st August?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Yes.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: He accepts the motion standing in the name of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri was then put and agreed to.

The following motion, standing in the names of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 7,921 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 17' be reduced by Rs. 6,161."

The following motion, standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 595 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 18' be refused."

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 17,750 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 19' for the revision of boat hire for temporary boats for Circle Inspectors, investigating officers, process servers, etc., in the Bengal Presidency be reduced by Rs. 750."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 20," for the construction of a slipway at Narayanganj for the River Police, be refused.

The only reason I should like to advance is that the Police Retrenchment Committee is very soon going to consider the question of the River Police. It may be abolished or may not be abolished, but the question may be taken up in August. I suggest that this demand be placed before this Council after the Committee has submitted its report.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I support the above motion.

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 20' be reduced by Rs. 500."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I oppose this motion because it will not be in the interest of economy. The existing slipway can only be used from May to October and within these six months only small launches can be pulled up on it. The result is that we have to pay docking charges to private companies. The amount we paid in 1920-21 was Rs. 2,540 and 1921-22 Rs. 3,509. The amount we paid in these two years would more than pay for the slipway. I think that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is very optimistic about the report of the Police Retrenchment Committee more so than some others of his colleagues. I inquired of one of his colleagues and I was told that they had not touched the District Police at all and if they were to do it, it would take them more than five years. In the circumstances, I would ask this Council to vote this money as a measure of economy.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: In view of the information supplied by the Hon'ble Member, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Council here adjourned for 12 minutes.

[After the adjournment.]

The following motion, standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 19,205 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 21' be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 19,205 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 21" be refused.

In the supplementary budget, it is shown as a temporary demand, non-recurring, but, as a matter of fact, it is a question of a recurring grant of Rs. 40,000 because there are about 20,000 constables and head-constables and for every three years we shall have to spend a good deal, *i.e.*, over a lakh and practically it would be a question of nearly Rs. 40,000 a year. I explained the situation to the Hon'ble Member in charge. If it is a question of Rs. 19,000 occasionally for a year, I do not

mind it. For the comforts of constables, that may be done, but if it is a question of Rs. 40,000 a year, the Council will have to consider it. Formerly we had not to spend so much: about four years ago, it is stated that we spent about Rs. 8,000 a year. Now we shall have to spend Rs. 40,000. Why should not the constables make some contribution towards the cost of these nets?

With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I have got nothing to add to what has been said by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. I beg to support the motion that the demand for Rs. 19,205 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 21" be refused.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 19,205 under head "26—Police—Scheme 21" be reduced by Rs. 2,608-8.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

In moving this motion, I say that if a mosquito net is purchased at Rs. 5 instead of Rs. 5-12-0, we will save Rs. 2,608-8-0. I therefore move for the reduction of this sum and the savings may be spent on charitable purposes. I hope the Hon'ble Member will accept it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The provision of mosquito nets for the constables and head-constables I regard as a health measure and as an insurance. It is really cheaper in the long run to keep our men fit than to keep up a big reserve. The health of the police is not good in Bengal and we have not done all we can to improve it. At the same time, I frankly admit that the ideal is that we ought to spend annually Rs. 40,000 to give the constables mosquito nets. All that we have ever been able to spend, so far, is Rs. 17,600 in 1914-15, Rs. 8,000 in 1916-17, and then we closed down the provision or mosquito nets. The passing of this sum does not commit the House to any expenditure next year. I do not mean to say that. I shall not come before this House and ask for further provision next year. But as it stands, it does not commit the House to spend anything more. If we have got themoney, I shall ask the House for a further grant. If we have not got the money, we cannot spend.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I ask whether it is not a fact that administrative sanction has been given to a scheme for the supply of mosquito curtains to constables which will involve a triennial expenditure of Rs. 1,24,000?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: When the scheme was sanctioned in 1914, the total estimated expenditure was Rs. 52,887.

There are many schemes which have been administratively approved, but cannot be carried out until funds are provided by this Council. Administrative approval means nothing except that the Government approve of the scheme. If we want to spend money, we have got to come to the Council.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Is it or is it not an item which will involve a trennial expenditure of Rs. 1,24,000?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The scheme involving a triennial expenditure of that amount is our ideal. The practical effect falls far below our ideal.

The motions of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were then put and lost.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: With the same remarks as in the other case, I beg to withdraw the following motion:—

"That the demand for Rs. 25,000 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 2' be refused."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion, standing in the name of Rai Nibaran Das Gupta Bahadur, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 23' be refused."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 23' be reduced by Rs. 17,500."

The following motion, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '26.—Police—District Police—Scheme 23' for the supply of iron cots, be reduced by Rs. 16,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 25,000 for th esupply of iron cots to police officers under head '26. Police—Scheme 23,' be reduced by Rs. 15,750.

The following motion, standing in the name of Babu Jogesh Chandra Sarkar, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the denmad of Rs. 25,000 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 23' be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

The following motion, standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was, in absence of the member, deemed to withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 23' be reduced by Rs. 12,500.'

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 23" be reduced by Rs. 1,850.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

On inquiry I find that iron cots are available in the market at Rs. 25. I do not understand why then it will be purchased at Rs. 27. I said what I had to say, and I leave it entirely to the option of the House.

Mr. J. DONALD: We have heard no weighty reasons adduced for the refusal or the reduction of this amount. This sum is required in connection with a scheme which is intended to promote the health of the force. It is an insurance for the health of the whole force and if we allow constables to sleep on the floor as they do now, and give them no proper cots, it means extra reserve and extra expenditure, on that account of much public money. This amount was calculated on the basis of a rate of Rs. 27 per cot but the rate to-day is much lower and, if the full amount is voted, we shall be able to get a much larger number of cots and the expenditure will diminish in the future. We have to provide cots for the health of the force, and we want to give them good and sanitary cots. I oppose these motions.

Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray's motion was then put and lost.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI moved that the demand of Rs. 4,471 under head "26.—Police—District Police—Scheme 24," be refused.

In moving this motion, I simply beg to inquire what will be the ultimate expenditure.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This is not quite on the same lines as for the mosquito curtains. In 1916-17, we provided the head constables and constables on court and escort duties with waterproofs, one waterproof each. The number of waterproofs bought then was 3,267. Since then we have added 463 men to the total number of men on the above duties and this is a proposal to give these 463 men waterproofs which three years ago were given to the other men who were on the same duties. We cannot afford to provide all these 463 men with waterproofs at once. We put down Rs. 5,000 which, at the rate quoted in 1920, would have bought 200. I believe that the cost of the waterproofs has gone down and I believe that we shall

be able to buy more. I certainly undertake to buy as many as we can for the money.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In view of the Hon'ble Member's remarks, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,471 under head '26—Police—Scheme 24' be reduced by Rs. 71."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY moved that the demand of Rs. 14,250 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 25" be refused.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I support this motion. No reasons are necessary.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 14,350 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 25" be reduced by Rs. 250.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I am prepared to reduce this demand by Rs. 10,150, the reason being we have been fortunate enough to be able to get hold of the identical thing we wanted at less price than that put down. I think the movers will agree to this.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I move an amendment to reduce the demand by Rs. 10,150.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I accept Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's amendment.

The following amended motion was then put and carried:—

"That the demand for Rs. 14,350 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 25' be reduced by Rs. 10,150.

The original motion that the demand be refused was put to the vote at the request of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray and lost.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,08,084 under head "26.—Police—Scheme" be refused.

Bengal is the only province, except Burma and Assam, which employs military police. The Fraser Commission of 1902 had recommended its abolition, but it has continued to exist. From the nature of the work which it has been called upon to perform, and the number of occasions when its employment was found necessary during the past 12 years, I think that it is very doubtful whether it is necessary to keep it any longer. We have appointed a Police Retrenchment Committee and

we find we do not want this military police. This demand can also be examined by the general Retrenchment Committee. The whole question of the military police is being examined by them. Before we incur any new expenditure in this connection, I think that we would do well to wait and see what these Retrenchment Committees have got to say about the very existence of the military police. This is not an urgent expenditure. We have done without it all these years and we would do well to wait a little longer.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 1,08,084 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 28" be reduced by Rs. 10,800.

Babu JOGESH CHANDRA SARKAR: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,08,084 under head "26.—Police—Bengal Military Police—Scheme 28" for rearming the Eastern Frontier Rifles with Lee Enfield Magazine rifles be reduced to Rs. 36,028.

It cannot be said that all the rifles have become unserviceable at once. The change may be effected gradually and the expenditure spread over a number of years. Some of these rifles may be utilised for other purposes.

Owing to the absence of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, the following motion standing in his name was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,08,084 under head head '26.—Police—Scheme 28' be reduced to Rs. 50,000."

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am grateful to the Government for its having supplied to me details in the case of the supplementary budget, but I am really sorry to find that in this particular case no details have been given. Then, Sir, it has been said that we have got a memorandum. That memorandum states that the existing rifles are worn out and should be replaced, but as regards the details of the expenditure amounting to more than one lakh of rupees, I am really sorry that we have not been favoured with them. What I beg to submit is that it is a military expenditure. It is the primary duty of the Government of India to maintain the military police and as such I do not think that this Council would be justified in sanctioning this grant. The Government of India have increased the railway freight on food-grains and on passengers and they have increased the rates of postcards and letters. Therefore, we can justly ask the Government of India to incur this expenditure. However, as an amicable settlement, I suggest that we meet half the sum and ask the Government of India to meet the other half.

As regards the merits of the question, I may be allowed to say that we are sick of this military police. We have had sad experience in Chandpur and we have had similar experience of them on other occasions. I think they can easily be replaced by the civil police. If Bengal

agrees, then let us approach the Government of India to meet half the expenditure.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta moved that the demand of Rs. 1,08,084 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 28" be reduced to Rs. 54,042.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The expenditure is urgent and necessary because the rifles are falling to pieces. They are kept together with difficulty and every time they are fired, they go out of order and new screws have to be put in and the stock is again screwed to the barrel. A large number of them are constantly at the armoury being repaired. We have been warned since 1918, that these rifles will not stand field service conditions even for a few days and the position now is that they cannot stand field service conditions even for two days. Therefore, the matter is urgent. I can see no justification for waiting till we get the report of the Police Retrenchment Committee. I despair as to when we shall get the report. I do not think we can possibly take the responsibility of postponing it. However, we get these rifles from the Government of India and if we return them we shall get credit for those we return according to the state in which we return them. Therefore, even supposing that after we receive Kumar Shib Shekhareswar's note on the abolition of the military police we decided on its abolition, this money would not be wasted as we could send the arms to the Government of India and get a refund from them.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Will all the rifles be immediately required?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I am afraid I cannot accept any amendment which proposes to reduce the grant by half because it is impossible to have in one battalion two separate arms. The rearming cannot be done gradually, it must be done all at once. Babu Amulya Dhone Addy has complained of want of details, but we have not got the details ourselves. We wrote to the Government of India and asked them what would be the charge for rearming this battalion with a specific rifle. They wrote back and said that the total cost would be Rs. 1,08,084, the cost of a rifle being Rs. 87, so that we are absolutely in their hands. I agree that it would be a graceful thing for the Government of India to give us half the cost of these rifles. If they show the slightest desire either to give us the rifles or to meet half of the expenditure, I should certainly jump at the opportunity.

These motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 3,325 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 29" be reduced by Rs. 271.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I will not waste the time of the Council by giving any argument. I oppose the motion.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,271 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 30' be reduced by Rs. 271."

Owing to the absence of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,920 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 31' be refused."

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 3,920 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 31' be reduced by Rs. 1,960."

Owing to the absence of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,260 under head '26.—Police—Scheme 32' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 1,260 under head "26.—Police—Scheme 32" be reduced by Rs. 630.

Mr. J. DONALD: The Inspectors are entitled to free quarters, but as we have got no Government buildings to put them in we must give them sufficient allowance to cover the house rent paid by them. The present rates are not so low as the member seems to think.

The motion was put and lost.

Owing to the absence of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for expenditure under head '26.—Police,' be refused."

The following motion, standing in the name of Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 3,56,471 under head '26.—Police' be reduced by Rs. 26,000."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The question now before the House is that the sum, as settled in Council, be granted for expenditure under head "26.—Police."

The motion was put and carried.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Tuesday, the 11th July, 1922, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 11th July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 102 nominated and elected members.

Unstarred Question

(answer to which was laid on the table).

Grant-in-aid and Inspecting staff.

156. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number and rank of the supervising staff of the Education Department in Bengal;

(*ii*) the yearly salary of each of these officials; and

(*iii*) the amount drawn by each of them on an average as travelling expenses during each official year?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the rate of grant to aided high English schools or any other class of schools in Bengal; and

(*ii*) the yearly expenditure of such grants in every district of Bengal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the amount of money yearly spent by each of the District Boards of Bengal for—

(1) middle English schools;

(2) middle vernacular schools;

(3) upper primary schools;

(4) lower primary schools;

(5) patshalas;

(6) maktabs; and

(*ii*) the amount of yearly Government grant to supplement the amount of educational expenditure of each of the District Boards?

(*d*) Is there any truth in the allegation that more money is spent on work of inspection than in granting aid for the actual work of education?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) No. The rates of the cost of inspection (salaries—travelling) grants to schools, and grants to District Boards for education is roughly 10 : 12 : 15.

Statement referred to in unstarred question No. 156 (a) (i), showing the number and rank of the supervising staff of the Education Department, Bengal.

DIVISIONS.	Inspectors and 2nd Inspectors.	Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education.	District Inspectors.	Subdivisional Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Inspecting Maulvis.	Assistant Inspectresses.	Inspectresses.	Inspector of European Schools.
Burdwan	3	1	6	16	73	16	2 } 1		
Presidency (excluding Calcutta).	3	1	5	9	44	6	2	1	
Calcutta	1	...	1	2	3*	1	1		1
Dacca	3	1	4	14	*66	1	2		
Rajshahi	2	1	8	12	44	1	2	1	
Chittagong	2	1	4	7	38	2	1		
Total ...	14	5	28	61	268	27	12	2	1

* Including 1 temporary post of Sub-Inspector of Schools for boys released from Reformatory Schools.

Statement referred to in unstarred question No. 156 (a) (ii), showing t yearly salary of each of the supervising staff of the Educati Department, Bengal.

	No.	Yearly salary.
		Rs.
I. Inspectors and Second Inspectors—	14	1,40,520
	Rs.	
Indian Educational Service (7)	1 on 2,000 per mensem	24,000
	1 „ 1,600 „ „	19,200
	1 „ 1,500 „ „	18,000
	1 „ 1,050 „ „	12,600
	1 „ 950 „ „	11,400
	1 „ 550 „ „	6,600
	1 „ 550 „ „	6,600
	7	98,400
Bengal Educational Service (7)	1 on 700 per mensem	8,400
	1 „ 550 „ „	6,600
	2 „ 500 „ „ (each).	12,000
	1 „ 460 „ „	5,520
	1 „ 420 „ „	5,040
	1 „ 380 „ „	4,560
	7	42,120
Total ...	14	1,40,520
II. Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education—	5	18,840
Bengal Educational Service (5)	1 on 380 per mensem	4,560
	1 „ 340 „ „	4,080
	1 „ 300 „ „	3,600
	1 „ 300 „ „	3,600
	1 „ 250 „ „	3,000
	5	18,840
III. District Inspectors—	28	80,760
Bengal Educational Service (28)	1 on 700 per mensem	8,400
	1 „ 420 „ „	5,040
	1 „ 380 „ „	4,560
	2 „ 340 „ „ (each).	8,160
	6 „ 300 „ „ „	3,600
	17 „ 250 „ „ „	51,000
	28	80,760

	No.	Rs.	Yearly salary. Rs
IV. Subdivisional Inspectors—	61		1,33,680
(61) on Rs. 150—10—250.	1 on	250 per mensem	3,000
	16 ,,	210 ,, ,, (each)	40,320
	31 ,,	180 ,, ,, ,,	66,960
	13 ,,	150 ,, ,, ,,	23,400
	61		1,33,680
V. Sub-Inspectors—	268		3,41,880
(268) On Rs. 75—5—20	3 on	170 per mensem (each)	6,120
	87 ,,	140 ,, ,, ,,	1,46,160
	67 ,,	105 ,, ,, ,,	84,420
	44 ,,	85 ,, ,, ,,	44,880
	67 ,,	75 ,, ,, ,,	60,300
	268		3,41,880
VI. Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Inspecting Maulvis—	27		14,460
(27) On Rs. 35—2—75—3—90	1 on	63 per mensem	756
	5 ,,	54 ,, ,, (each)	3,060
	1 ,,	55 ,, ,,	660
	6 ,,	49 ,, ,, (each)	3,528
	3 ,,	47 ,, ,, ,,	1,692
	1 ,,	43 ,, ,,	516
	1 ,,	39 ,, ,,	468
	9 ,,	35 ,, ,, (each)	3,780
	27		14,460
VII. Assistant Inspectresses—	12		40,500
Bengal Educational Service (12)	1 on	425 per mensem	5,100
	1 ,,	375 ,, ,,	4,500
	2 ,,	325 ,, ,, (each)	7,800
	4 ,,	275 ,, ,, ,,	13,200
	1 ,,	225 ,, ,,	2,700
	3 ,,	200 ,, ,, (each)	7,200
	12		40,500
VIII. Inspectresses—	2		20,400
Indian Educational Service (2)	1 on	1,100 per mensem	13,200
	1 ,,	600 ,, ,,	7,200
	2		20,400

	No.	Yearly salary.
		Rs.
IX. Inspector of European Schools—	1	12,000
Indian Educational Service	1 on Rs. 1,000 per mensem	12,000

Abstract

	No.	Yearly salaries.
		Rs.
I	14	1,40,520
II	5	18,840
III	28	80,760
IV	61	1,33,680
V	268	3,41,880
VI	27	14,460
VII	12	40,500
VIII	2	20,400
IX	1	12,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	418	8,03,040

Statement referred to in unstarred question No. 156 (a) (iii), showing the amount drawn by each Inspecting Officer on an average as travelling allowances during an official year.

	Rs
Inspectors	1,828 a year.
Assistant and District Inspectors ...	1,220 ,,
Subdivisional Inspectors	832 ,,
Sub-Inspectors	363 ,,
Assistant Sub-Inspectors / Inspecting Maulvis	316 ,,
Inspectresses	1,716 ,,
Assistant Inspectresses	1,024 ,,

NOTE.—District and Subdivisional Inspectors being new classes of officers, the figures have been calculated from the returns relating to Deputy and Additional Deputy Inspectors, whom they have displaced.

Statement showing the grants made by Government to all classes of schools during 1921-22, referred to in unstarred question No. 156 (b) (i) and (ii).

Name of districts.	High Schools.	Middle English Schools.	Middle Vernacular Schools.	Primary Schools.	Training Schools.	Sanskrit Tols.	Madrassahs.	Miscellaneous Schools.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Calcutta ...	72,510	31,467	8,065	19,361	22,866	660	2,160	28,865
24-Parganas ...	20,736	24,066	2,508	19,573	.....	1,824	4,116	.....
Nadia ...	30,792	4,884	2,175	5,218	5,730	1,140	1,464	.....
Murshidabad ...	16,656	4,920	750	2,076	.....	.....	6,627	.....
Jessore ...	12,000	1,632	.....	3,333	.....	.....	2,016	.....
Khulna ...	19,848	2,808	885	1,639	.....	.....	4,560	.....
Burdwan ...	29,856	6,828	.....	3,364	.....	.....	3,792	.....
Birbhum ...	10,992	5,988	.....	2,331	.....	420	960	.....
Bankura ...	11,796	3,540	600	1,167	.....	.....	660	264
Midnapore ...	32,520	5,760	2,475	3,968	4,800	.....	2,760	.....
Hooghly ...	24,576	7,104	480	6,465	.....	.....	11,994	.....

Name of districts.		High Schools.	Middle English Schools.	Middle Vernacular Schools.	Primary Schools.	Training Schools.	Sanskrit Tols.	Madrassahs.	Miscellaneous Schools.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Howrah	...	15,204	8,340	480	6,378	.....	.....	2,820	.....
Dacca	...	40,485	10,938	1,181	12,851	.....	3,720	15,188	.....
Mymensingh	...	30,595	8,2-8	1,596	7,961	.....	386	21,221	.....
Faridpur	...	20,768	9,029	.....	3,716	.....	.....	4,503	.....
Bakarganj	...	11,541	11,266	.....	5,088	.....	1,680	7,451	.....
Chittagong	...	24,626	6,131	.....	4,149	550	1,884	12,444	180
Noakhali	...	19,386	5,197	.....	3,770	.....	360	14,050	.....
Tippera	...	24,778	9,250	.....	9,036	.....	144	29,767	.....
Rajshahi	...	2,603	951	3,240	1,132	.....	2,130	1,120	.....
Dinajpur	...	9,218	3,875	.....	140	.....	.....	2,809	.....
Jalpaiguri	...	3,329	1,309	1,611	756	.....	.....	432	.....
Rangpur	...	12,716	4,816	1,021	3,088	30	275	7,477	.....
Bogra	...	17,634	5,290	.....	1,117	.....	210	6,229	.....
Pabna	...	14,239	3,319	.....	1,517	.....	480	6,700	.....

Malda	...	730	2,538	1,196	132	.....	.....	2,986	.....
Darjeeling	...	8,455	9,110	.....	1,850	9,831	.....	793	.....
Total	....	5,47,589	1,98,644	28,263	1,31,156	43,807	15,313	1,77,099	29,309
		11,71,180							

REMARKS—As regards clause (i) of the question it may be explained that the rate of grant ordinarily admissible is laid down in rule 6, Section I—General, of the grant-in-aid rules for schools. A copy of the rules is reproduced below for information —

6. The following limitations on the amounts of grants are imposed —

High Schools for boys —The grant shall not ordinarily exceed one-half of the amount contributed from private sources.

Middle Schools (boys and mixed).—When the expenditure is more than Rs. 40 a month, the grants shall not ordinarily exceed two-thirds of the amount contributed from private sources.

In the case of all other schools the grant shall not ordinarily exceed the amount contributed from private sources. For the purposes of this rule, District Board and Municipal contributions will be reckoned as receipts from public sources.

NOTE.—In the cases of recurring grants, private sources include private subscriptions, tuition fees, game fees, library fees and other periodical payments made by students to the school funds.

Statement referred to in unstarred question No. 156 (c) (i) and (ii), showing the expenditure by District Boards in Bengal on Educational institutions and the amount sanctioned by Government to supplement such expenditure.

Serial No.	District Board.	Amount yearly spent for—						Annual Government grant to supplement the educational expenditure of the Board.
		Middle English.	Middle Vernacular.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Maktabs.	Total.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	24-Parganas	13,395	4,017	7,691	63,924	5,300	94,327	33,836
2	Nadia	10,660	...	5,616	64,644	8,800	89,720	48,060
3	Murshidabad	3,681	732	13,002	34,165	...	51,580	38,392
4	Jessore	6,065	384	14,318	40,903	17,427	79,397	40,979
5	Khulna	11,112	1,800	14,556	40,863	20,925	89,256	40,739
	Total ...	44,913	6,933	55,483	2,44,499	52,452	4,04,280	2,02,006
6	Burdwan	14,776	1,496	17,540	42,069	13,213	89,094	37,948
7	Birbhum	7,044	1,372	10,337	45,074	6,518	70,345	46,884
8	Bankura	7,585	3,004	20,693	36,153	965	68,400	34,012
9	Midnapore	17,367	1,669	5,531	1,50,503	...	1,75,070	1,19,333

10	Hooghly	...	...	11,030	375	13,797	27,692	6,171	59,665	28,665
11	Howrah	...	...	7,020	...	5,284	12,364	1,728	26,396	2,360
		Total	...	65,422	7,916	73,182	3,13,855	28,595	4,68,970	2,69,202
12	Dacca	...	...	9,528	1,440	14,360	96,070	30,838	1,52,236	90,612
13	Mymensingh	...	...	16,856	7,873	1,985	1,34,895	52,144	2,13,753	1,39,831
14	Faridpur	...	...	7,968	...	9,367	93,991	26,568	1,37,894	83,834
15	Bakarganj	...	...	10,000	1,000	21,500	1,16,300	23,000	1,71,800	1,10,000
		Total	...	44,352	10,313	47,212	4,41,255	1,32,550	6,75,683	4,24,277
16	Chittagong	...	...	13,100	...	3,071	85,525	7,176	1,08,872	63,936
17	Tippera	...	...	10,731	76	...	1,25,310	...	1,36,117	97,450
18	Noakhali	...	...	13,807	540	7,268	71,434	36,948	1,29,997	75,422
		Total	...	37,638	616	10,339	2,82,269	44,124	3,74,986	2,36,808

Serial No.	District Board.	Amount yearly spent for—						Annual Government grant to supplement the educational expenditure of the Board.
		Middle English.	Middle Vernacular.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.	Maktabs.	Total.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
19	Rajshahi	9,570	5,205	14,734	89,950	3,175	1,22,634	70,558
20	Dinajpur	4,410	6,538	...	74,453	...	85,401	51,791
21	Jalpaiguri	6,036	480	5,864	55,880	2,716	70,976	34,988
22	Rangpur	35,889	7,822	9,460	64,607	5,870	1,23,648	72,712
23	Bogra	8,170	5,194	6,307	69,954	...	89,625	54,410
24	Pabna	8,909	1,197	...	75,020	572	85,698	47,429
25	Malda	11,106	1,477	4,956	44,393	239	62,171	29,798
	Total ...	84,090	27,913	41,321	4,74,257	12,572	6,40,153	3,61,686
	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,76,415	53,691	2,27,537	17,56,136	2,70,293	25,84,072	14,93,979

Demands for grants.

27.—Ports and Pilotage.

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): I move that a sum of Rs. 32,254 be granted for expenditure under head "27.—Ports and Pilotage."

The whole of this demand relates to one scheme, the provision of a motor launch for the Port Officer of Chittagong. There are several motions for reduction on the paper, and I think it will save the time of the Council if I explain now the necessity for this provision. Chittagong is the only port in which a launch is not provided by Government for the Port Officer. The Port Officers at the larger ports have launches, and even in the smaller ports in Madras launches are provided. It has been a long-standing grievance with the Port Officer of Chittagong that he has to depend on borrowing a launch from the Port Commissioners, which is often impossible, and in that case he has to go about in sampans or country boats. That system of travelling involves a great waste of time as the Port Officer's jurisdiction extends over 14 miles of the river Karnafuli. The matter was brought to a head last year on the occasion of the *hartals* in which the inhabitants of Chittagong indulged. During the *hartals* the boatmen refused to take their boats out and the Port Officer had to stay on shore, except when he could borrow a launch from the Port Commissioners. There was one incident which was particularly inconvenient and unpleasant. A mail steamer was anchored out in the river and was deserted by the crew who went on shore to take part in the *hartal*. The steamer was full of passengers including a number of Indian ladies who were naturally very much alarmed; they signalled to the Port Officer to come out to their rescue, but the Port Commissioners' launches being away, and the boatmen refusing to take out their boats, he had to stay on shore and could do nothing. Had the Port Officer had a launch of his own, he could at least have gone out and rescued the ladies. After this occurrence, the Port Officer very strongly impressed upon me the necessity of providing for a launch in the budget of last cold weather. But as Finance Member I had laid down the principle that no new expenditure was to be provided for in the budget before the taxation Bills were passed; and I felt that as Marine Member I could hardly go against my own principle; therefore, I decided to bring up the matter before the Council as soon as we had surplus funds in our hands, and that is the reason for my demand to-day.

That covers most of the motions which propose that the demand should be refused, but Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, with his usual originality, has proposed to reduce the demand by Rs. 2,254. A reference to the supplementary estimates will show that this sum which he wants to reduce is the amount which covers the cost of the crew and of the

petrol which will be required for working the launch. Does the Shah Sahib propose that we should spend Rs. 30,000 on a motor launch and then leave it high and dry on the bank with the unfortunate Port Officer in no better position than he is in at present? I trust that what I have said will convince the Council that the demand is justified.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ being absent, the following motion was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 32,254 under head '27.—Ports and Pilotage' being a provision for a motor launch for the Port Officer, Chittagong, be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 32,254 under head "27.—Ports and Pilotage" for a motor launch for the Port Officer at Chittagong, be refused.

What strikes me is this, that so long as the port of Chittagong was not under the Government of Bengal, the Port Officer could do without a launch. Now that the port has come under the Government of Bengal, the Port Officer requires a launch; that was the reason of my opposition. But now that the matter has been explained by the Hon'ble Member in charge, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 32,254 under head '27.—Ports and Pilotage—Scheme 1' be reduced by Rs. 2,254."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 32,254 be granted for expenditure under head "27.—Ports and Pilotage" was then put and agreed to.

30.—Scientific Departments.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move that a sum of Rs. 15,550 be granted for expenditure under head "30.—Scientific Departments."

This demand for grant has been put down in the name of my Hon'ble Colleague Mr. P. C. Mitter, but I have been asked to move this for the reason that the majority of the amount covered by this demand belongs to the Irrigation Department in connection with the payment of staff for the Hydro-Electric Survey scheme, a matter regarding which I made some reference at the last Budget discussion, and in answer to certain queries I said that if in the supplementary budget sufficient funds were provided, I would make a start with the question of the Hydro-Electric

Survey of Bengal. For this reason I beg to move for this demand. I may mention that within this Rs. 15,550 there is a sum of Rs. 700 for the additional grant to the Varendra Research Society at Rampur-Boalia. When the motion for the reduction of this amount comes up my Hon'ble Colleague Mr. Mitter will give his reasons for this demand. There is another sum, included in this amount of Rs. 500 for expenditure under "Stationery," and this will be replied to by my Hon'ble Colleague Sir John Kerr later on.

The following motions were deemed to be withdrawn as the members were absent:—

Rai Dr. HARSDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 700 under head '30.—Scientific Departments—Scheme 1' be refused."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 14,850 under head '30.—Scientific Departments—Scheme 2' be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 14,850 under head '30.—Scientific Departments' for hydro-electric survey, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '30.—Scientific Departments,' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 15,550 be granted for expenditure under head "30.—Scientific Departments," was then put and agreed to.

31.—Education (Reserved.)

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EUROPEAN EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I move that a sum of Rs. 89,000 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Reserved)."

This item covers two grants, one of Rs. 29,000 for the additional salary grant for the Calcutta Free School, and the other is Rs. 60,000 for the St. Andrews' Colonial Homes, Kalimpong.

I should warn the Council that we propose to ask the Council in the August session for another grant for the Loretto Convent; the total of these three grants is the same as was given last year, but they have been redistributed. The reason for the extra grant is roughly that all these three institutions are not only educational but also charitable institutions on a fairly large scale, and the occasion of their necessity for help is, firstly, that the cost of the teaching staff has gone up very

much, secondly, the cost of feeding has gone up very much, and thirdly, that owing to economic causes, subscriptions have gone down. The result is that these institutions are unable this year as last year to meet their expenditure. The grants will be given only when Government are satisfied that arrangements have been made with the help of these grants to make the institutions solvent for this year. As time is short, I need not go into details of these two grants; I only move that the demand be granted.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 29,000 under head "31.—Education—Scheme 1" be refused.

This is a grant in lump proposed to be given to a school which has suffered from competition with the Calcutta Boys' School and other similar institutions. It has a very large compound in the business quarter of the city, ill-suited for the purpose of a public school, being too close to a big popular market and in the neighbourhood of a particularly notorious and disreputable quarter. Long ago, the Governors of this Institution decided to remove this school to Ranchi where, I understand, a site had already been selected, and in the meantime arrangements were made to sell the existing buildings and the land at a very high price. This grant now proposed cannot indefinitely postpone the proposed removal of the school. The sum, though insignificant for the Institution, will prove of very great help in the extension of primary education in Calcutta, viz., for the establishment of free day schools for Anglo-Indian boys, the establishment of which can no longer be delayed. The large plot of land in the business quarter will fetch an enormous sum any day, though it is true the boom for land has passed away. The Governors of the institution should not, in my humble opinion, delay in giving effect to their intention to remove this institution to a more suitable site, nor should the Education Department waste money they can ill-afford to spare, to enable a tottering existence in the metropolis against its promised healthy life at Ranchi. Under the circumstances I feel that the Government should spend this sum for improving primary education for Anglo-Indian boys, instead of giving the grant to a school, which however deserving it may be, will not benefit very much by this grant.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 29,000 under head "31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 1," be reduced by Rs. 9,000.

He addressed the Council in Bengali in support of his motion. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

The previous speaker has said all what has got to be said and I have nothing more to add, but it arises in my mind that Rs. 9,000 were

given last year. This year it has been raised to Rs. 29,000. I therefore move that if it is not refused altogether it may be reduced by Rs. 9,000.

Mr. W. L. CAREY: I realise that in rising, as a layman, to take part in a debate on education, in an assembly where I know there are several expert educationists, I am treading on delicate ground, for which reason I shall confine myself to generalities. My excuse for speaking is that the opinion has been expressed to me on more than one occasion, in the past few months, and in one or two different places, not, I am glad to say, in Bengal, that it is no part of the duty of the Reformed Councils to provide any of the funds for the education of the Domiciled Community.

I am sure that in this enlightened province of Bengal, where the benefits of education are so rightly valued, and its necessity admitted, and among my fellow-members of this Council, such an opinion is not generally held, but it is because I see from these resolutions on the paper that there are evidently some one or two members who hold views something of this nature, that I am attempting to show that they are wrong.

Such opinions seem to me to smack of prejudice, and I would ask of you to raise the consideration of this subject above prejudice and to consider it from the point of view of the well-being of the State. If you look at the most civilised and progressive countries of the world, you will see that the better and more advanced a country is, and the greater its leadership in the things that matter, as compared with those that only seem to matter, the more is the interest taken by the statesmen of that country in the protection and education of minorities existing in their midst, whether such minorities are alien or indigenous, with the object of forming them into a useful section of society and an addition of strength to the State instead of a weakness. The exact opposite obtains in backward countries where the existence of weak minorities is only looked upon as an opportunity for the oppression and taking advantage of them, with consequent detrimental results.

I am sure that this Council will not desire in such matters to follow any but the best examples, and this entails the education and preparation for a useful life of the children of the domiciled communities as a part of our duties as well as the provision of primary schools and all other educational advantages for the people of the province as a whole. None of these do we wish to refuse, but would give our fullest support at all times, but at the same time I submit that these votes also are an integral part of the duty which we owe to our province of Bengal and I trust that this consideration added to the cogent arguments of Mr. Stark will secure the passing of the votes in full.

Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur is apparently misinformed with regard to the sale of the Free School lands which he has referred to. This

sale has fallen through, and the school is consequently feeling the greatest difficulty, and there is a danger that if the vote is passed, they may be forced to get rid of a great number of its boys now being taught in that school. Therefore, I beg to support the demand for the grant of Rs. 89,000.

Mr. H. A. STARK: The Calcutta Free School is divided into three sections, an Infants' Department, a Girls' Department and a Boys' Department. The Governors of this school realising that the time had come when they must do what they could to develop the resources of the school, entered into negotiations for the sale of their property in Free School Street—

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I can only give you two minutes.

Mr. H. A. STARK: I shall not take up much of the time of the Council; it is seldom that I speak. I entered upon this point because this has been referred to by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. The time of purchase was fixed at five years; the purchasers have not been able to find the money, and the result is that after two years of waiting, these negotiations have fallen through, and the Free School is in the same position as it was before they entered into them; however anxious they may be to make money that does not help them in their present emergency, and that is why this grant has been asked for. I do not know whether it is generally known that the Free School was established near upon 190 years ago and during this period it has existed on the generous public and the help of the Government. At present there are nearly 500 children on its rolls, almost all of them orphans or children of parents who have no means. I would urge giving this grant on a materialistic ground, that it is really a saving of the public purse to maintain schools for these classes which, if left uncared for in childhood and youth, must later on fill our police courts, our reformatories and jails. Not long ago within the hearing of these walls, a member of this Council said, "fill your schools, and empty your jails." He was acclaimed and rightly so. The refusal or reduction of the grant for the Free School not only is false economy, but also short-sighted policy. Close our charity schools, and in the course of a short time our streets will have on them waifs and strays, beggars and ruffians, who will be not only a menace to the public but also a wastage of human potentiality to the State. Here it seems to me is an instance in which action is prompted by the inability of one section of citizens to interpret and estimate the needs of another section. Charity schools are the outcome of European social conditions. Where the joint family system prevails they are not necessary, and yet with the march of time and the slow but increasing relaxation of domestic obligations in Indian society, occasionally we do find Hindus and Muhammadans

establishing charity schools for the deaf and dumb, the blind and the orphans. There can be but little doubt that the trend of events is in the direction of opening an ever increasing number of these charitable institutions, and the time is coming when my Indian fellow-countrymen will enter more sympathetically into the sentiments in response to which Europeans and Anglo-Indians maintain so many orphanages. I would only ask this Council to anticipate that time and even here to-day to look sympathetically upon those institutions which are indispensable in European society as it is now organised. It is well known that the European community subscribe liberally to Indian charitable institutions, be they the Ram Krishna Mission or a Muhammadan Orphanage or a Hindu Home; and here I wish to say how it has pained me to see that the two schools that are threatened with a retrenchment of grants, are both of them charity schools. Striking at the poor and needy, the destitute and the orphan is a characteristic so foreign to the Indian mind indeed so repugnant to Hinduism and Muhammadanism, that I cannot believe my fellow Councillors will fail to repudiate it.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You have exceeded your limit.

Mr. H. A. STARK: Just one minute more; I do not care to sit down without finishing my argument.

The reductions proposed do not seem to be based on any subtle calculation, upon any examination of facts—merely a slash of the pruning knife recklessly administered. Reduce the grants, never mind what the results may be.

I have spent the greater part of my life in teaching and working for the children of the Indian communities; is it too much for me to expect that you will deal kindly with the orphans and the destitute children of my community?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I have nothing to add to what has already been said.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: May I have permission to offer a personal explanation?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes, you may offer only a personal explanation.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: My remarks have been taken as having been actuated by some feeling against the Anglo-Indian community. I can assure my friend that nothing was farther from my mind. What I have said has nothing to do with this or any other community; it refers to my community as well.

The motion of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was then put and lost.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were deemed to be withdrawn as the members were absent:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 60,000 under head '31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 2,' be refused."

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "That the demand for Rs. 60,000 under head '31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 2' for additional grants to St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, be reduced to Rs. 30,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 60,000 under head '31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 2' for additional grant to St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs 60,000 under head '31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 2' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '31.—Education (Reserved)' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 89,000 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Reserved)" was then put and agreed to.

31.—Education (Transferred).

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I move that a sum of Rs. 8,47,643, be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Transferred)."

Members will find statements in the "Remarks" columns of the supplementary estimates which will explain the various demands. It is not, however, possible in these statements to present a comprehensive picture of the ideas underlying these statements, and I propose to explain, in a few words, some of the more important demands. The most important demand with which the House will have to deal is the question of primary education. Members will find provisions made in Schemes Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24. There is no doubt that the problem is one of great magnitude. The magnitude of the problem, however,

should not deter either the Government or the public from tackling it in all seriousness. True democratic self-government will not be possible in this country so long as we do not make up our mind to solve this problem. However difficult the problem may seem to those who have not considered it carefully, I venture to assert that the problem is not so difficult of solution as many are apt to imagine. The last report of the Director of Public Instruction will tell the members of the House that already 1,340,000 children are now in school. According to the last census report, if every boy of school-going age were in school, the total number would be about 2,535,000. So, more than half the problem has already been solved. In order to give some sort of education for the 1,340,000 and odd pupils in the primary stages of education, the province spent about Rs. 43,27,579 in the year 1920-21, out of which provincial revenues contributed Rs. 14,36,376, local funds Rs. 6,42,308, municipal funds Rs. 84,699, fees Rs. 18,11,158, endowments Rs. 4,497, subscriptions and other sources Rs. 3,48,541. Besides these sums, the Government spends directly Rs. 3,08,000, partly in its capacity as zamindar and partly in non-board areas.

The House will perhaps remember that a scheme for the improvement of primary education for the town of Calcutta is an accomplished fact, an accomplished fact in the sense that the money is there, but, unfortunately, the fruition remains. I have no doubt that in the near future our City Fathers will tackle the problem with their usual energy and very soon every boy of this town will receive free and compulsory education. The money is there; but thanks to the energies of my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, within the short time that he has taken over charge of his office, he has already started a number of these schools (A voice: "What about the Commissioners?"). I do not ignore the Commissioners. I have no quarrel with them. Let the Commissioners show their interest in the matter by actually starting these schools. I know that the Chairman cannot do it without the support of the Commissioners. However, that is by the way. Now, Sir, with the leave of the House, I desire to say a few words in connection with primary education, and I may assure the House that with regard to most of the other matters I shall not detain the House. As regards primary education, I have already told the House that we should not be deterred by the magnitude of the problem. The population of our province is about the same as that of Great Britain; but in England and Wales, schools were practically made free since 1892, that is to say, it took them more than 22 years to make their schools free, and it took them more than 25 years to tackle the problem effectively so far as the question of compulsion was concerned, because even in 1895, only about 80 per cent. of the boys in England and Wales were in school. We have already started with more than 50 per cent., and if we seriously try to solve this problem, with the desire of our masses for education and the keenness of Bengal to provide for education, and with co-operation

between Government and the local bodies and the people, the problem of primary education, I say, will be solved much sooner than many of us are apt to imagine. I do not for a moment minimise the difficulties and the magnitude of the task before us; but we have the experience and example of Great Britain and other countries which have solved the problem, and, guided by the experience of these countries and with the patriotism of our people, I am sure the problem will be solved much sooner than it took the pioneer countries to solve it.

Members of the House are aware that a Special Officer was appointed to report on the question of primary education. The report of that Special Officer which was received last year was widely circulated both in English and Bengali; it was supplied to every member of this Council and to many representative bodies and associations and to every local body in the province. I have been asked more than once as to whether this scheme is an accepted scheme or not; and I have said that it is neither an accepted scheme nor a rejected scheme. It is a provisional scheme, a useful scheme which will serve as a basis of discussion between the different local bodies and the Government officials; but so long as the local bodies accept some of the conditions which I desire to lay down, any deviation from that scheme will be acceptable to me. I have been told that Mr. Biss's scheme is expensive. I need not go into that matter, but if any public association or local body puts forward any acceptable scheme that is less expensive, I shall welcome its help and co-operation in the matter. But, Sir, I am sorry to say that although Mr. Biss's report was widely circulated and although we asked for public opinion, the response up to now has been very disappointing. I make this remark in no carping spirit, but I say this rather to rouse the conscience of the nation against its apathy in the past. Of the prominent public men consulted, my esteemed friend, Raja Hrishikesh Law and some other public men were the only few who favoured me with constructive suggestions. Of the public associations, the British Indian Association was, perhaps, the only well-known association which favoured me with its views. Definite schemes have been prepared in consultation with every municipality of the province and with more than 204 union boards. Although I have heard general criticisms about the expensive nature of the scheme, I have yet to receive a constructive alternative scheme. It will, I think, relieve the situation if I again tell hon'ble members that I have not accepted Mr. Biss's scheme yet; but I would like the local bodies to send to my department schemes of a less expensive nature which they want to place before us. I, however, desire to lay down certain conditions. The conditions are five in number and are as follows:—

(*a*) The payment of living wages to teachers. I have no objection to varying these wages for different localities. Indeed, it is just and proper that wages should vary in different localities as local conditions differ.

(*b*) This is the most important condition. The local public or the local body, as the case may be, must find half the expenditure. In the early period of last year an impression got abroad that Government were not prepared to sanction any scheme unless the scheme provided for free education. This impression is not correct. It is undoubtedly true that Government would give every preference to a scheme which attempts to make primary education free. But as our first problem is to break illiteracy and as a considerable amount is realised from fees, I shall be quite prepared to consider schemes which propose to charge fees from, say, half the number of pupils. The half contribution of the local public or the local body, as the case may be, may be found in fees, endowments, taxations, contributions from local bodies or any other dependable source of contribution. The Government share of contribution will be half of the total expenditure. As Government will contribute half the total expenditure, they will reserve to themselves the right of insisting on half the number of boys being taught free, but as between two rival schemes in one of which the local bodies are prepared to make primary education free and the other not so, every preference will be given to the party whose desire is to make primary education free.

(*c*) Schools must be located in sanitary and well-ventilated structures. A wrong impression has got abroad that we insist on *pucca* structures. Nothing of the kind. This demand of Rs. 1,55,000 is for 100 union boards. A union board has an area of about 8 to 10 square miles and there are often about 5 to 10 schools in each. Roughly speaking, the average cost of Government share will be perhaps something between Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 only for each school house and only a *kutcha* structure is possible with this money. But I must however insist on the structures being sanitary and well-ventilated, but if a particular local body or a municipality desires to erect a school house in a locality where the site is expensive and want to have a *pucca* structure on such a site, I shall welcome a *pucca* structure. Further, even in places where the site is not very expensive, a *pucca* structure on comparatively inexpensive lines is often more economical in the long run than a *kutcha* structure. Then, again, a *pucca* structure has the advantage of being financed from loans and, therefore, it will be easier both for the local body and the Government to find the money. I shall leave it to the local bodies to decide in the first place, what sort of structure they like to have.

(*d*) The proper distribution of schools. We cannot afford to have schools very near each other, nor is it desirable to have them at a great distance from each other, as we are dealing with little boys.

(*e*) The concentration of children so far as possible.

Subject to these five conditions, I am prepared to consider any scheme.

Instead of detaining the House with regard to various other matters, I shall just draw the attention of the House to the observations in the "Remarks" column with regard to our schemes for girls' education, Muhammadan education, expansion of education amongst backward classes, improvement of physical education, including improvement of health, ideas of discipline and duty amongst students, expansion of non-Government mufassal colleges, especially on the science side, provision for education among children with criminal tendencies under the Bengal Children Act, and last, but by no means the least, the grant to the Calcutta University.

I know that this is a question in which every member of the House is keenly interested, and I trust that the critics of the Calcutta University, after they have listened to my observations, will be satisfied and will agree to pass the grant for Rs. 2,50,000, which, under the present condition of the University, is not perhaps enough. I hope that they will agree to pass the grant without any acrimonious remarks and without a division. There is no doubt that the Calcutta University is urgently in need of funds; without funds it is likely to collapse. The Calcutta University has brought to the notice of the Government that there is an estimated deficit for the year 1921-22, amounting to Rs. 5,39,000. It is imperative, therefore, to give a substantial grant, and that at once to the Calcutta University, so that this great institution may be saved from ruin. This House will remember that in August last year a resolution was passed, in spite of my opposition and advice, in which the House demanded that a committee should be appointed to examine the affairs and, especially, the financial affairs of the Calcutta University. (Hear, hear.) I promised at the time of that debate to deal with the subject-matter of that resolution after I had the views of the Calcutta University before me. I have not deviated from that promise and will not deviate from it. The reason for the delay, however, requires a word of explanation. In my budget speech in March last, I told the Council that I expected to deal with the matter at an early date. Soon after that—I believe the speech was delivered on 1st March—on the 12th March the Syndicate held a meeting to decide upon their line of action with regard to the resolution of this Council. Since then, they have appointed a committee of the Senate to deal with the matter. On the 27th of June last, the Registrar informed the Government that the report of the committee was expected to be placed before the Senate at a very early date. I understand that since then, on Saturday last, the

committee had finished its report and that the Senate would soon deal with the matter. The University has also informed the Government that it is willing to place financial information before Government. I submit, Sir, that this last mentioned point completely changes the aspect of the case (Hear, hear.) When the University is willing to place all its financial affairs before the Government, the House will have an opportunity of dealing with the question on its own merits. This decision of the University to place its financial affairs before the Government was first arrived at by the Syndicate and has subsequently been confirmed by the Senate. Further, there is another very important aspect of the question, to which I desire to draw the attention of the House, namely, the auditing of the accounts of the University. The auditing of the accounts up to June, 1921, is, I am told, almost ready for submission before Government. I further understand that the audit officers propose to make certain suggestions about the current year's accounts as well. It is with the current year's accounts that we are more concerned than with the past year's. We were all agreed, when this question was debated twice or thrice in this House—those who are critics of the University, those who are its friends, and those who want to hold the balance even—all the parties were agreed that we must save the University; the difference being only with regard to the method. Now, first of all, the University has promised the information we want; and in the next few days. I shall have important information from the officers of the Government Therefore, I would appeal to the House, since they have waited so long, to wait a little more. I would appeal to the House to pass the grant; it is urgent and imperative that this grant should be passed. (Hear, hear.) If you do not pass the grant, you will be incurring a very serious responsibility indeed! Then the House will have to bear the responsibility of being charged by posterity of killing high education in the province. I am sure that the better mind of the House will look at both sides of the question and that the House will appreciate that if we want to improve the condition of the patient, we must allow him to live; we must not kill the patient by starvation. Starvation is staring the Calcutta University in the face, and unless you make this grant immediately to-day, the consequences will be very serious.

One word more and I have done. I have repeated more than once what my attitude in this matter is, and I once more assure the House—if assurance were needed—that when the views of the University and the audit report and notes are before me, I shall stand by every word that I have uttered in this House in the various debates that have taken place in this connection.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)," for the Calcutta University, be refused.

I have heard very carefully the speech of the Hon'ble Minister on this point, and we are assured that the Calcutta University is now willing to submit its accounts to Government. I must draw the attention of the members of the Council first to the resolution which this Council passed on the 30th of August last. The resolution is as follows:—"This Council recommends to Government that with a view to determine what financial assistance, if any, should be given to the Calcutta University, a committee consisting of such and such persons be appointed to inquire into and report on the general working of the University, in particular, its financial administration, etc., and recommend such urgent measures or reforms as may be necessary." Six months after that on the 1st March, 1922, the Hon'ble Minister announced that he had written to the Calcutta University that they would have to submit their report by the 7th of that month. What happened since then we do not know.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have already explained the matter.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: In the same speech the Hon'ble Minister made the following statement—

> The University should not have spent the provision which has accumulated during so many years in one single year, and thus brought the premier University to the verge of bankruptcy.

He also added—

> We, the members of this Council, should all join in trying to improve the Calcutta University [*mark the word "improve"*] and place the institution on the same high pedestal which it occupied in the past

This shows that the Calcutta University had swerved from the high place it once occupied. Then he went on to say—

> As regards purely academic matters, this House ought not to have any say, but as regards matters which touch the public intimately—matters like the financial administration—I submit, with the utmost confidence of the House, that this House has a right, and it would be failing in its duty if it did not assert that right.

I lay great stress on the last few words of the Hon'ble Minister and I say that I want to assert that right now. On the face of all these statements and charges of maladministration brought against the Calcutta University by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education, and also various other charges brought against it by several members of the Council, and in view of the fact that it has wasted 5½ lakhs of rupees, shall we, as reasonable members of the Council, be justified in voting this demand without an inquiry into the reasonableness of this demand? I ask the Council in all seriousness to refuse the demand unless effect is given to the resolution which we have passed. That resolution relates to a transferred department, but whenever we ask the Minister to do this thing or that, he opens out his

palms and asks for money, but this resolution has nothing to do with money; it is simply a matter for appointing a committee which the Hon'ble Minister himself thinks that we are justified in demanding. The Hon'ble Minister has also said that if the Calcutta University takes up an attitude of antagonism to this House, it will alienate its sympathy with its financial embarrassments, and will justify the House in not coming forward with money to help it. This is the view which I have all along held in regard to this matter. The attitude of the Calcutta University is still antagonistic to this House. It has abused the members of this Council in a manner unworthy of such an academic body. The University has refused to submit any account or any information about its finances to this Council The University goes further than this; they have dared to take the Government to task by saying that the Government should not have placed on the Council table an audited report of the University. The University's attitude is also antagonistic as appears from the fact that they made an attempt to pass a vote of censure against the Minister for Education in Bengal. In the face of all these things, I ask whether it it will be proper for us to give our assent to the demand which has been made by the Hon'ble Minister.

I would only say a few words more to my friends here and it is this. We wanted to inquire as to what financial assistance should be given to the University, but we have been given no information at all; so how can we pass the demand of the Hon'ble Minister made just now? We refused to pass the police grant because sufficient materials were not placed before us, but here are sufficient materials in our hands against the University.

In these circumstances, I ask the Council to refuse this demand.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: We are very glad to hear that University authorities are now willing to submit the accounts to show the real state of things. It is not our wish that the University should cease to exist. Why Rs. 5 lakhs—I have no objection to give to the University even Rs. 10 lakhs. I would respectfully ask the Hon'ble Minister if a month's delay would be any great obstacle to the affairs of the University going on smoothly. In that case we may wait. In the August session we may see what amount is really needed and we should then grant accordingly as the necessity arises.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I agree in opposing this demand for a grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs to the Calcutta University, but my reasons are different from those urged by the previous speakers. I propose to rest my case solely on the point of view of the Muhammadan community, particularly because I have noticed a tendency of late in those who wield authority to ignore the Muhammadan community altogether In opposing this grant, I wish to guard against being misunderstood.

However much I oppose this demand, I do not put myself in opposition to the Minister in charge, and although what I say may be taken as a vote of censure on the Calcutta University, I mean no such vote on the Minister in charge. The Calcutta University was founded in the year 1857, and I think I can say, without any fear of contradiction, that ever since its inception it has systematically ignored Muhammadan interests. It began with two Muhammadan members on the Senate and the Council would be surprised that till the year 1904, when the University Act was passed, the Muhammadan representation on the Senate of the Calcutta University never exceeded 5 per cent. When the University was founded, the University buildings and also all other institutions connected with the University were located in parts of the city far remote from the Muhammadan quarters, with the result that the Muhammadan community were almost cut off from the ennobling influences of modern University life. The University Senate, as I have already submitted, had a particularly low representation of Muhammadans. There was then no election. The nomination was made by Government on the recommendation of the University and although Muhammadan education made rapid strides, the University never thought fit to include on the list of Fellows, even Muhammadans of undoubted merit and ability who might not only had been able to better represent the views of their own community in the University, but would certainly have added to the weight, dignity and, I may say, to the success of the deliberations of the University as an educational institution. That was with reference to membership of the Senate. Coming to the Syndicate, the Executive Committee of the University, it is surprising that sometimes there was a solitary Muhammadan member, but more often than not Muhammadan members were absent in the Syndicate altogether. In the Senate, the representation was ridiculously low and in the Syndicate there was often no representation whatsoever, and the Council would be surprised to hear that up to now there has not been a single Muhammadan Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. Does anybody say that since the enactment of the statute establishing the Calcutta University, there has not been one single Muhammadan fit to hold the post of Vice-Chancellor? Muhammadans have figured as Judges of the High Court, Muhammadans have held the post of Chief Justice of a High Court. A Muhammadan has been the first Indian Member on the Privy Council and yet this is the justice of the Calcutta University that the Muhammadan community had so far been ignored that not a single Muhammadan has been thought fit to hold the post of the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.

Mr. BIJAYPROSAD SINGH ROY: May I rise to a point of order? Can the member refer to these things?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I am opposing this demand for grant and I want to show that the Calcutta University is deserving of the

severest condemnation at the hands of the Muhammadan community. There is no question of "order."

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Does the Calcutta University appoint the Vice-Chancellor, or does the Government do so?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The Calcutta University has got a very great hand in the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. We know how these things happen. I say this deliberately, and I hope that my remarks will be placed before His Excellency the Governor and also the Viceroy. There is always something underhand about these things.

Now, Sir, I will point out one or two instances in which Muhammadan interests have been deliberately ignored. You have a splendid building where the University Law College students live but, pray, tell me, why is there not a single seat for Muhammadans in the building? I do not grudge my Hindu fellow brethren having a splendid institution for the students of their community, but I think the Muhammadans have got an equal right and claim on the resources and funds of the University. We represented this fact to the University but it was all in vain. In 1914, I moved a resolution in the Bengal Legislative Council which was tardily accepted by the then Director of Public Instruction and the result was that we had a hostel for Muhammadan Law students at No. 2, College Square. It was nothing but a dirty hovel where no respectable gentlemen could live and what has the Calcutta University done after having nursed it like a step-mother? It has abolished the hostel altogether. What was the fate of the Muhammadan Law students? They had to shift elsewhere and were scattered all over Calcutta. This, Sir, is the state of affairs so far as the Muhammadan hostel under the Calcutta University is concerned.

I now come to the question of the *Ramzan* incident and I shall be as brief as possible. From the statement published by the Calcutta University itself, it is apparent that the University authorities knew in January that the *Ramzan* would fall during the period which has been fixed for the University examinations. The University did nothing to prevent the University examinations from being held in the month of *Ramzan* and when we took objection it came out with a tardy explanation that the examination should not be further postponed by reason of the fact that the non-co-operators had induced certain students to abstain themselves from attending the colleges and, therefore, it was necessary to finish the examinations before the sessions began. I ask any one who is going to stand up in his defence of the University, what prevented the University in January from fixing the

dates earlier? What prevented the University from holding examinations according as we suggested, keeping the *Ramzan* days afar and setting apart only those subjects which were not of very much importance. The University turned a deaf ear to our representation and all that it did was to hold a supplementary examination for those Muhammadan students who did not appear during the ordinary examinations of the University. Now, Sir, recently a certain statement has been published by the University to show that our objection was groundless and that the Muhammadans themselves were not very particular about the examination being held in the *Ramzan* days. The statistics published show that the mufassal students did not take advantage of the supplementary examination, but the Calcutta students, practically all of whom refused to sit for the examination in the *Ramzan* sat for the supplementary examination. The moral the University seeks to draw is this, that the majority did not avail themselves of the privileges granted by the University. I say that the conclusion to be drawn is quite the contrary. It shows that the mufassal students were at the last moment told not to appear in the University examination but to keep themselves back for the supplementary examination and for that purpose they would have to come to Calcutta. Coming to Calcutta would have been a great strain on them and so they accepted the inevitable and sat for the examination during the *Ramzan* days, but Calcutta Muhammadan students one and all held themselves aloof and did not sit for the ordinary examination, but sat for the supplementary examination. I say, therefore, that the Calcutta University acted quite injudiciously and without any regard for the feelings of the Muhammadan students in proceeding to hold the examination during the *Ramzan* days.

Then, Sir, the latest injustice done to Muhammadans is the introduction of the vernacular as the medium of examination. The University has decided that the medium of instruction shall be Bengali. Now, Sir, those who know and those who do not but ought to know must equally be aware that the position of the Muhammadans in Bengal is somewhat anomalous. The Muhammadans of Bengal talk Bengali because they live in this country, but in 90 per cent. of the cases, Muhammadans do not read Bengali as a literature for reasons which I need not discuss at the present moment. Bengali to them as a literature is quite as foreign as that of any other foreign language in the University. (Cries of: "No, no.") I know what I say and I challenge anybody to contradict me. Now, Sir, whatever that may be the University has decided to make Bengali the medium of instruction. The University authorities ignored the Muhammadans. None are so blind as those who will not see. None are so deaf as those who will not hear. The University authorities will not see and will not hear. I can multiply my charge, but I find I have got very little time. These are some of our grievances against the Calcutta University.

Then, there is the University Law College but there is not a single Bengali Muhammadan Professor there. Is there not a single Muhammadan fit to lecture even on Muhammadan Law?

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Is not Mr. Khoda Bux a Muhammadan?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I said a Bengali Muhammadan. Mr. Khoda Bux is not a Bengali Muhammadan. He is a *persona grata* with the University and may hold 500 posts, but that does not do away with that point.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: What about Dr A. Suhrawardy?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: He is not a Professor of the Law College.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): Order, order. The hon'ble member is entitled to be heard in silence.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The result of these interruptions is that I lose the thread of my arguments.

Mr. S. N. MALLIK: Why do you take notice of them?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I think I have said enough. I say that the Calcutta University deliberately ignores the interests of the Muhammadan community. They have been doing it ever since its inception in 1857, and unless things are mended and mended in such a way that the present men in charge are no longer there, the interests of the Muhammadan community will continue to be ignored. I would have given more instances if I had the time, but this is the considered view of the entire Muhammadan community. Let the Government continue to ignore our claims, but we will warn them that retribution will come sooner or later, and although out of personal regard to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education, the Muhammadan members will not object to the grant, they may, in the near future, demand to have a University of their own and not have any connection with the Calcutta University which has always ignored their claims. If this is not enough, I do not know what is.

The following motion was deemed to be withdrawn as the member was absent:—

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: "That the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 under head '31.—Education (Transferred),' for grant to the Calcutta University, be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)," for a grant to the Calcutta University, be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

I first thought of supporting the resolution of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar and withdrawing mine, but the threatened disaster to the Calcutta University and the fear of its total destruction have been raised as a bogey in this Council to-day and in the Press outside, and I feel that it would be better for me to move a constitutional amendment of the reduction of a nominal sum, in order to find out once for all what the position of the Council is in connection with the Calcutta University and its affairs. I have heard with great patience the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Minister for Education to-day and I will not trouble him with that question of the acceptance of the resolution that was adopted in this Council nearly a year ago. He has appealed to us that if we have agreed to wait so long, let us agree to wait some weeks more. Now that the University has been kind and gracious enough, nay condescending enough, to agree to submit its accounts and finances, let us wait and see if they are condescending enough to agree to the proposal of a committee to look into their financial affairs. Till then, we shall wait; but in return, I shall request the Hon'ble Minister to wait for this sum of Rs. 10,000 till the August sessions; I am sure that the want of Rs. 10,000 will not absolutely destroy the University during this month. However, I must justify myself in asking to reduce the grant by Rs. 10,000. I shall not raise the question of a committee, but there are some other points that have been raised which require some explanation. During the last few weeks in the columns of a certain English paper, a certain gentleman, who is evidently supposed to represent India, has been pleased to focus his thoughts on the affairs of the Calcutta University and some other papers have also taken their cue. The whole burden of their song seems to be that the Government of India and not the Calcutta University must be held responsible for the expansion of the Post-graduate Department; that the whole thing was done with the sanction of the Government of India and, as such, the Government are responsible for those finances—for the finances of the Post-graduate Department. This is an admirable argument and I should like to ask the Hon'ble Minister a question or two in this connection. Did the Calcutta University expand its post-graduate courses with the full knowledge that their ordinary income would not be able to meet their expenses or did they depend upon some other sources? Did it represent to the Government of India that the money for expansion could not be met without the help of Government and, if so, did the Government of India promise them help? If the answer to this question is in the affirmative, I would suggest to the Hon'ble Minister to go up to the Government of India and ask them to keep their promise to the Calcutta

University. This Council has not taken any responsibility for making up the deficit of a body, whose financial transactions, in the words of the Hon'ble Minister himself, have been deplorable.

Now, Sir, to come to the reasons that have been given for this heavy deficit. Among the reasons that have been mentioned here we find that the non-co-operation movement is one. I hope, the Hon'ble Minister has not forgotten the speech that he delivered in March last. He challenged Professor S. C. Mukherji to show whether anybody has really made inquiries and come to the definite conclusion that the deficit was really due to these causes. I shall quote some of these.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I admit I remember it fully and so in order to save time my hon'ble friend need not mention it.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Very well; I am glad that the Hon'ble Minister remembers that he questioned if the non-co-operation movement was responsible for the deficit of the previous year. There may have been other causes for causing this deficiency—it seems that the deficiency is more due to the expansion of some of the Post-graduate Department rather than the causes mentioned in this demand for this grant. However, it is very difficult to dogmatise about the causes, without a full and detailed inquiry.

As a protest against that want of inquiry, as a protest against sufficient informtion about the causes of this particular deficiency, I think that this Council has every right to reduce this grant by Rs. 10,000. This small reduction will not hamper the work—will not destroy the University, but at the same time will add to the prestige of the Council and will also give the authorities an opportunity of explaining matters fully in the Council.

I desire, as every educated Indian desires, in spite of what Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has been pleased to say, we desire that the Calcutta University should expand. I am sorry that Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has been pleased to bring up a Hindu-Muhammadan question in connection with this great seat of learning. I protest against his statements. We do not desire that our Muhammadan friends should secede from the University. We want them to come—we want them to make a happy family within the Calcutta University, and I am sure the interests of Muhammadans have not been and can never be ignored.

The affairs of the Calcutta University have been managed lately in such a way as to have drawn vigorous criticisms from some of the responsible journals of Calcutta. We do not want that the Calcutta University should give any further loophole for further criticisms. This is not the occasion to go into a detailed criticism of the affairs of the University, but I want that the Calcutta University should reform those departments which need reform. There should a healthy co-operation between the University and this Council because this Council

is just as much responsible for development of the University, as is the University itself.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: There is no doubt that Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has voiced the sentiments of the Muhammadan community regarding the Calcutta University. I admit that there is a great deal of force in what he has said, but assuming all his charges to be true, I do not think that the Muhammadans, who held aloft the torch of light and learning in Europe and in Asia—in the University of Cordova, of Granada, and of Bagdad—should take the lead in strangling, if not altogether in killing, the largest, the oldest and the most renowned seat of learning in the country—the premier University of India. I agree with the Hon'ble Minister for Education that if the University of Calcutta is suffering from a dangerous malady, the treatment is not starvation, and I add that the treatment is neither decapitation nor strangulation. If you are dissatisfied with the progress of the patient, change the diet, change the prescription, change the treatment, and change the doctor if you like, change even the system of medicine if you please If the pungent allopathy of autocracy is distasteful to you, substitute for it the tasteless homeopathy of democracy.

I understand that an amendment of the Calcutta University Act is under contemplation and that democratisation of the Calcutta University will be the one of its chief features. When this takes place, I hope to see our friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, a full-fledged Fellow of the Calcutta University and have the pleasure of hearing his harangues in the Senate even as we hear his inspiring speeches here. I trust the complaint regarding there not being a Moslem Vice-Chancellor will also disappear at an early date and Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, for o ught we know, might be the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University if he will only allow it to live.

Regarding the question of abolition of the Hostel at No. 2, Mirzapore Street, near College Square, for the Muhammadan students of the Law College, I wish to inform the House that as a member of the Students' Residence Committee of the Calcutta University, I know that accommodation has been provided for the Muhammadan Law students in the Carmichael Hostel, and the late Superintendent of the Law College Hostel at Mirzapore Street has been installed as the Superintendent of the Carmichael Hostel. Therefore, the Muhammadan Law students have not been sent adrift all over the city as mentioned by Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. It was on account of financial stringency that the Muhammadan Law College Hostel had to be temporarily closed down, and I do not think it was a bad business proposition, if room could be found for them elsewhere.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The Carmichael Hostel is a long way off from the Law College.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: It is only five minutes' walk from the old Law College Hostel. I have personally inspected the place. I do not say, I agree to the hostel being abolished, it is only a temporary expediency.

With regard to the *Ramzan* question, I may inform the House that I quite agree with Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq that the examinations of the University should not have taken place during the fasting month. During the *Ramzan* the Muhammadans observe a rigorous fast, and it is obvious that the Muhammadan students who are fasting cannot compete on equal terms with students who are not fasting. Therefore, the University authorities were not right in fixing the dates for the Arts examination during the *Ramzan* period, and I invite reference to my speech in the Senate during the debate on this subject. I am that solitary Muslim member of the Syndicate referred to by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, but I was not a member of the Syndicate when the dates for the Arts examinations referred to were fixed. I might inform the House that when the question of examination of the Medical Faculty came up before the Syndicate, I did all that was possible to stop a repetition of what was done with regard to the Arts examination, and although the proportion of Muslim candidates in the Medical Faculty was comparatively less than that in the Arts section, yet with the help of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, the popular Principal of the Medical College, Lieutenant-Colonel Barnardo, succeeded in pushing back the date of the Medical examination, until after the *Ramzan* was over. This shows that if action were taken in time, the University authorities would have probably done with regard to the Arts subjects what was done with regard to the Medical subjects.

I hope Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq will not press the matter further as his motion, if carried, will hit the University hard; I fully endorse most of what he has said regarding Muslim interests in the University, but I trust that Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq and my other Muhammadan colleagues will agree with the Hon'ble Minister and other members who think that the University must be allowed to live in order to get the chance of being reformed.

Let us try to revive and reform the University and not attempt to strangle it. I earnestly hope and trust my appeal will not go in vain.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I wish to intervene in the debate. The question before the House has been thoroughly discussed and arguments *pro et con* have been put forward. The subject is also a matter of inquiry by the people interested in it. On behalf of the tax-payers, it was submitted that so far as primary education was concerned. Government have not given much consideration to it. Among 45 millions of people living in Bengal, the figure of literacy is only 6 per cent. What steps have been taken for the purpose of the expansion of primary education? I am fully aware that the Hon'ble

Minister has taken active steps in this connection. We have before us the report of Mr. Biss. We know the efforts that he made in this connection, but the result depends upon the amount of money awarded by Government.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: We are not concerned with Mr. Biss's report. The question before the House is whether the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 for grant to the Calcutta University should be sanctioned or not.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The underlying reason for my referring to Mr. Biss's report is that this grant of Rs. 2,50,000 should be spent on the expansion of primary education and so I do not think I am out of order. However, that does not matter much. It is a grievance of the tax-payers and this grievance should be taken into consideration.

Now, there is another additional reason which weighs much in my mind, that is, that the Government did not form a committee for the purpose of making an inquiry into the subject of the University finance. I must say frankly that we took it as an insult to the House and Government ought to have taken steps for the purpose of forming a committee. We were naturally very much anxious as to whether a committee will ever come into existence, but I heard just now from the Hon'ble Minister that there is still hope for a committee. If money is spent lavishly and extravagantly, certainly it is the duty of the Council to make an inquiry into the subject. If it be argued that the internal management of the University is an affair of the University and that the Council has nothing to do with the question, I respectfully differ from such a view. If we are required to contribute money to the University, certainly I think the Council should have a voice in this connection. But this is the legal aspect of the question. I hope and trust that the whole question will be settled by the remodelling of the University Act. We know the powers of the Council and the powers of the University. If the resolution in the Council is not accepted by the University, the members of the Council are naturally nervous. That is the reason why so long I was unwilling to accept the demand which has been made. I am now not questioning about the Post-graduate teaching: that is a matter left to the country. We say you have not the means to teach people by the method you have adopted; we affirm that you are spending money lavishly. I look back to the old days when mufassal colleges were allowed to teach students of the M.A. and B.L. classes. In the old days mufassal colleges sent lawyers like the late Justice Dwaraka Nath Mitter. By the present system we, mufassalites, are obliged to send our students to Calcutta at a heavy cost; we are put to great difficulties. The University does not look to our interest. There are the expensive University College,

the University Law College, the Post-graduate classes and all that. For these reasons, we are disposed to think that the system now in vogue in the University is open to objection.

Now, Sir, there is another additional reason which the House may consider and it is this: that unless the expenditure of the University be curtailed in the future, the University will be put to an embarrassing position. It is reported to us that Rs. 5,30,000 or so is the deficit of the University. The Minister is now going to make a demand for Rs. 2,50,000 only. What about the balance which is more than Rs. 2,50,000? Will there be another supplementary demand? I ask, most respectfully, the Hon'ble Minister to answer it, so that supposing we are in a position to allow Rs. 2,50,000 to-day, what about the balance of the deficit which is still to be met? This is a matter which the House ought to know. The Hon'ble Minister ought to take us into his confidence and tell us how that deficit amount will be paid. In future if the University goes beyond its means in employing professors, lecturers and demonstrators, I am afraid it will again run into debt. Therefore, it is a subject of serious consideration for the House. Let us get away anyhow from the difficulty at present but we do not mind what will happen in the future, is a situation which we cannot accept. Although, Sir, I do not like the method and procedure adopted by the University, I, in all loyalty to the reputation and dignity of the Calcutta University, accept the demand which has been put before the House.

Before you ask me to take my seat, I must say that the Calcutta University is bound to look to the education of the Muhammadans. In the temple of science if a student, be he a Muhammadan or a Hindu or a Christian, knocks at its door, the priest ought to allow him to enter into it, irrespective of his caste or creed. We have listened to the speech of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, and we hope that the complaints made by him will be looked into by the University.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: It is unfortunate that such gifted members as Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, who are all Masters of Arts of the Calcutta University, have no hesitation in asking us all to lend our support to further starve our *alma mater* which has already reached the extreme stages of inanimation. No words can adequately describe my mental anguish when I find people with any pretence to education coming forward with proposals, which aim at throttling education of any country—particularly the higher education which alone can secure us a place of honour side by side with the other civilised peoples of the world. Is this the way, I ask you, by which my friends—the trusted representatives of the people—mean to uplift their nation? Is this the way by which my friends mean to discharge their deep debt of gratitude towards their own *alma mater*?

It strikes me that the sole offence of the Calcutta University is her supposed autocracy and the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Ashutosh Mukharji is supposed to be the autocrat of autocrats and it is the desire of some of the members to see him humbled down before the very people for whose education he has spent his life-blood for a period of over thirty years, amidst circumstances and environments which have been and still are far from being enviable, but which although exciting profound admiration from Western scholars, has constantly met with scant courtesy from his own countrymen. What is his reward? The reward of his achievements is our attempt to put a halter round his neck by the very set of people, who, either themselves or their relatives, have at one time or another been the recepient of kind treatment at his hands. This has been the misfortune of my poor country since the days of Joychandra and Umichand and this characteristic will always remain a stumbling block to attain that liberty, which we call *swaraj*, which is our ambition and cherished goal. What is the offence of the Calcutta University? These are the regulations of the Calcutta University. I challenge any one of you here to find out any rules which will entitle you to give effect to the resolution passed by the Council on the motion of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar. Find out any passage, find out any section, find out any statute, which will give effect to this resolution.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: See section 15.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I will do that, I will read it out. It is constituted under an Act of incorporation which definitely lays down—

It shall be able and capable in law to take, purchase and hold any property, moveable or immoveable which may become vested in it for the purpose of the University by virtue of any purchase grant, testamentary disposition or otherwise and shall be able and capable in law to grant, demise, alienate or otherwise dispose of all or any of the property moveable or immoveable belonging to the University and also to all other matters incidental or appertaining to a body corporate.

It further lays down—

The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Fellows for the time being shall have entire management of and superintendence over, the affairs, concerns and property of the said University and, in all cases unprovided for by this Act, it shall be lawful for the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Fellows to act in such manner as shall appear to them best calculated to promote the purposes intended by the said Unversity.

The Act VIII of 1904 further lays down—

The University shall be, and shall be deemed to have been, incorporated for the purpose of making provision for the instruction of students with power to appoint university professors and lecturers to hold and manage educational endowments, to erect, equip, and maintain university libraries, laboratories and mansions and to do all acts consistent with the Act of incorporation and this Act which tend to the promotion of study and research.

If in zealously guarding their legitimate rights the University have not been able to satisfy the idle curiosities of all parties, can we honestly accuse them of autocracy? Does our position, as members of the Bengal Legislative Council, entitle us to perform anything unwarranted by law, unwarranted by custom, unwarranted by procedure and unwarranted by circumstances? And if, in the discharge of their duties the Senate which consist of people whose attainments and dignity are in no way inferior to be members of this Council, resent any uncalled-for and unconstitutional interference and assert their self-respect, all right-thinking men with no axe to grind cannot but extend to them their sympathy and support.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair and not Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: In conclusion, Sir, I beg of you all not to sacrifice the University for personal aggrandisement and selfish reasons. This University is our national asset. No one denies that this University admits of improvement in various directions. No one is more keen about this than the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Sir Ashutosh——

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is he in order in bringing in the name of Sir Ashutosh Mukharji?

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I will not bring in his name any more. His strength and magnetic influence are not the outcome of chance coincidence, but of steady application, unflinching devotion to duty and a thorough knowledge of the details of University administration and any attempt to curb his legitimate powers or humble him by starving the institution cannot but be a national disaster.

It is very unfortunate that Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has touched on the delicate racial question. If it is a fact that 90 per cent. of Muhammadan students study Urdu, why is it, Sir, that out of about 3,500 Muhammadan students not more than 350 or 10 per cent. appeared in Urdu and not in Bengali as has been claimed? I may assure the House that the resolution of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar has been thoroughly discussed in a Select Committee in which I was privileged to be one of the members. An unanimous report has been made out and has been presented to the House for final discussion and disposal. I would ask my friends to keep their souls in patience for a few weeks more, but more than this I am not able to commit at present. One word more and I have finished. It behoves us all to join our head and heart in improving education in general and higher education in particular, and I join the Hon'ble Minister for Education in my humble appeal to you not to destroy a thing but find out measures for constructive improvement.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I confess I feel somewhat embarrassed in rising to speak on the University grant, because I find, to my surprise, that any criticism of the affairs of the University however legitimate, is regarded by some as a personal attack upon the Vice-Chancellor. However, as members of the Council, we have to do our duty and I think every one of us is prepared to do that duty fearlessly. We know that the University is in great difficulties, and I am sure none of us here, or anywhere else, wish to see that great institution wrecked. Its professors, its lecturers are not receiving their salaries, its creditors are not receiving their payments. Surely that is a position which none of us should like, none of us should allow, a great institution like the University to come to. Rightly or wrongly, the University has incurred some liabilities which have landed it in a huge deficit of over Rs. 5 lakhs, and I venture to think that it is the duty of this Council to come to the rescue of the University and help it to get out of its crisis. Well, in my opinion if it is up to the Council to help the University, it is up to the University also to meet the Council.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You ought to address the Chair, Mr. Ghose.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am addressing you, I started by addressing you. Must I always look at you? (Laughter.)

Nothing is gained, Sir, nothing can be gained, as has been pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister, by mutual recriminations, and I am really sorry that my esteemed friend, Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra, indulged in so much recrimination. As the Council is aware, the House asked for full information regarding the financial administration of the University and even went the length of suggesting the appointment of a committee. That information I deplore—I greatly deplore—the University has not thought fit to place at our disposal, because I feel that if that information had been placed at our disposal, it would have strengthened the hands of those who are eager and anxious to see that the University got all the money that it wanted. However, Sir, I am glad to hear from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education that the University has at last consented to furnish all the information regarding its financial management to the Council. Well, Sir, that the University has got much to explain, there can be no manner of doubt. Its own published proceedings show that. Let me place before the Council—and I ask my friend, Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra, to listen to these remarks of mine—let me place before the Council an instance of the financial administration of the University which will at once convince everybody that the Council was perfectly justified in its demand for information from the University. I find in the Minutes of the University of the 27th September, 1921, this entry:—

The Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor made a statement on the present financial condition.

Resolved that the Syndicate recommend to the Senate to sanction an overdraft to an amount not exceeding Rs 2 lakhs on the Imperial Bank of India against the securities of the Khaira fund.

Only three days after this resolution according sanction to an overdraft to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs, I find the Syndicate resolving this:—

The Registrar reported that under orders of the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor he had sent two cheques for Rs. 10,000 each to the Netherlands India Commercial Bank for purchasing German marks.

Resolved that the action taken be approved and that the amount be debited ultimately against the Khaira fund and such other funds, as may be determined hereafter.

When I read this it nearly took my breath away. What is the explanation of this? It very much looks like speculation in German marks. It is an instance which will at once convince and convince, I think, even Dr. Moitra, the great University man, that the Council has every right to ask for information regarding the financial management of the University because we are the custodians of the public purse, and before we grant the money, we have every right to know how another public body dealing with public money handles the money that we give. Let me sum up. I have no desire to be hostile to the University, and I am sure none of us here would like that this great institution should be killed for want of funds. I am sure that this vote will be assented to by this House, but as I have said, we have every right to demand information, I think we ought not to be satisfied until we get full information regarding the financial management of the University.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: It is a matter of very deep regret that so much heat has been introduced into a discussion which could have been conducted much more satisfactorily under cooler conditions. I am extremely sorry that my friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, made his speech in a racial spirit. Does he really mean to say that because certain examinations were held during the *Ramzan*, therefore, the Calcutta University should be punished with starvation? Is that his idea? He has complained that Muhammadan interests have been ignored all along. I have no desire to take up the time of the Council in refuting that statement. If Mr. Fazl-ul Haq will give me an opportunity outside this Council Chamber, I shall prove to him that the Muhammadan interests have not been ignored by the Calcutta University. Mr. Fazl-ul Haq also stated that there was no Muhammadan professor in the University Law College, only a few months ago Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy was one of the Law College staff.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: Years ago.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Not years ago. Mr. Khoda Baksh and Dr. Abdulla Suhrawardy were also professors of the same college. At the present moment, Dr. A. Suhrawardy and Mr. Khoda Baksh are professors in the Post-graduate Department. In the olden days

there was also Mr. Rasul. In this matter, at any rate, Muhammadan interests have not been ignored, but I do not desire to multiply instances and take up the time of the Council. I want to ask Mr. Fazl-ul Haq one question. It is this. What does he want? Does he want to improve or to destroy the Calcutta University? He wants, I think, to make the University democratic; we all desire to make it democratic and we have the power to make it so. We can by legislation make it democratic, and change its constitution. We should not destroy the University. It has been built by our money and with our labour. I am connected with the Post-graduate Department and I may tell the Council although the Post-graduate Department is not perfect, a great deal of good work is being done. At present the Post-graduate Department is closed, and if this grant is not forthcoming this department will remain closed perhaps for ever.

With reference to the expansion of the Post-graduate Department the entire responsibility cannot possibly be thrown upon the Vice-Chancellor. The scheme, which is an elaborate one, received the sanction of the Government of India and the appointments of professors for the department were made with the sanction of the Government of India; so that it is not fair to suggest that Sir Ashutosh Mukharji, the Vice-Chancellor, is alone responsible for the present situation of the University. The institution is extremely costly. May I remind the Council one fact, namely, that the annual grant to the University to-day is only Rs. 1,40,000? We do not complain against the Dacca University. We do not grudge the Dacca University the grant of Rs. 9 lakhs year after year. When the Calcutta University is in difficulties and comes to you for money—only Rs. 2,50,000—we move amendments to reject that demand. Is this justice? After all it is the *alma mater* of almost all of us. I hope every single member will rise to the occasion and vote in favour of the grant. If they want to improve the University by all means let them do so, but I earnestly hope that they will not destroy or wreck the University by refusing the grant of Rs. 2,50,000.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I deeply regret that there should be any heat in discussing this resolution. I take it that we are all endeavouring to advance education in this country and it is the desire of all the members here that education should be advanced. Why, in discussing a question of this character, personal bitterness should come in and why our language should be not proper—I will not use any other expression—I cannot comprehend. I am avoiding harsh language although some of the criticism deserves to be treated in a harsh manner. What I ask is this. Is there any institution in India which equals the Calcutta University? None. Is there any institution in the world which compares with the Calcutta University in respect of the numbers who seek education? Now, there is one thing which I want to point out to the House and it is this, that so far as higher education is concerned, Calcutta or Bengal is almost equal to the United Kingdom, but

as regards the other branches of education it is not the time to deal with them. The question arises, what has the Government done to support this great institution? Every one knows that the Calcutta University is mainly supported by fees derived from examinations. At one time, we used to attack the University because it was not a teaching university. Then it was resolved that it should be a teaching university and as soon as that was resolved steps were taken. It may be that the steps which were taken did not commend themselves to the great educationists who sit here, but I am not prepared to take my educational lessons from this House. I am prepared to appeal to some individual members for their help with regard to this matter, for suggestions with regard to the improvement of the University, but to tell me that this House is to control the policy of the University is to tell me that a popular body like this should be ready to fetter the activities of an institution which is an autonomous one. It is a ridiculous suggestion. It is a suggestion about which Lord Curzon when it was put to him said, that it was farthest from his mind and that he could not possibly think of it. The University is an autonomous institution. It is controlled mainly by our people with the assistance of experts, educational experts Now it may be a misfortune that the present Vice-Chancellor does not get the support of some of our people and that there is an undercurrent of feeling against him in this House, but I will not deal with that. That question does not arise. So far as the University is concerned, what is the authority upon which this House can interfere with it? Now there is a complete answer to it in the Statute.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Question!

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I know that Babu Surendra Nath Mallik is questioning it, but I have carefully gone into the matter and I deny the authority of this House, as the Statute now stands, to interfere with University administration. The House has not got the power. The Government have not got the power now. It is only with regard to certain matters that they can inquire. They can undoubtedly ask that the accounts be audited and the accounts are audited year after year by Government people. If any question arises from the report of the auditor, then the Government can go and ask—"What do you say to this"? And if the University says—"We will not give you the information," then the matter can be taken up. But how does that question now arise. My friend, Mr. D. C. Ghose, gets up—I do not see him now——

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I am here, Sir.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I am very glad to see him near me.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I find certain speakers are dealing with the constitutional question. Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri was not here when I spoke. My position is that I do not want to decide anything

with regard to that question so long as I do no get a representation from the Calcutta University on this matter. Therefore, perhaps it is unnecessary at this stage to go into that.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: That is the reason why I want to guard this House against it. You have passed a resolution, the propriety of which may be doubted, but whether it is doubted or not, I will accept it for the present as a resolution of the House. Then the University has taken steps with regard to this matter, has inquired into the matter and its report will be placed in due course before the House. Then the question which some members have discussed may arise and we shall discuss it then. I do not want to discuss it now. What I want to say is this, look at the most important branch of education so far as the University is concerned, namely, the College of Science, which was started with endowments from outside and not by Government, Government in ten years have contributed only Rs. 1,20,000. That is a miserable sum, to contribute in ten years, but the Calcutta University with its poor resources has had in these ten years to contribute very nearly Rs. 10 lakhs from its fee fund. What do you say to that? After that we are told that this Council should refuse this grant of Rs. 2,50,000 intended to meet a deficit of Rs. 5 lakhs. Are you prepared to take that responsibility upon your shoulders? Are you prepared to bring this institution to a close? If you are, do it by all means. I will say with the greatest respect to my friends who are opposed to this grant that they have not carefully considered the matter. I will not say anything with regard to the German marks and the overdraft alluded to by Mr. Ghose. I find that there are two gentlemen here present who are members of the Syndicate, and were attending the Syndicate meeting when those items were dealt with. They can deal with this point. I am not able to do it. You see an overdraft and a cheque for marks and you jump to the conclusion that there must be speculation. Is that a sane view? Well, you find that two cheques for buying marks have been passed by the Syndicate, a body of people, with educational qualifications, with some degree of intelligence, and some sense of propriety. They have passed these cheques and to believe that the University went on speculating in marks is something, I respectfully submit, which is an absurdity. Now, Sir, I am not prepared to see that the Calcutta University should suffer in any way. It must go on. It is an institution which has been recognised not only here but in the United Kingdom. It has established a position for itself which has not been equalled by any other institution in India. What I ask is, patiently and considerately consider this matter. There is a deficit of Rs. 5 lakhs. It is not a generous grant that you have been asked to give. It is a matter for the University to consider how, with this Rs. 2,50,000, both ends can be made to meet. Supposing you refuse the grant, what is to happen? It may ultimately mean that professorships and classes will have to be abolished. Are you prepared to take that responsibility upon your

shoulders? May I not appeal to every one of you here? With most of the speakers I am glad to say I am not on such terms as make my name stink in their nostrils. I am not in that position. I look upon them as friends and may I not appeal to every one of them to forget these personal matters and not to think of Russian autocracy or things of that kind, but to do your best for the young men of Bengal. I do not know whether Mr. Haq is here or not.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I am here, Sir.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I am glad that you are here. What I say is this, that if you are encouraging a belief in the country that the Muhammadans are getting the worst of it under the University method of administration, it is entirely wrong. There is no justice in that complaint.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: That is my belief.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I am not concerned with your belief. I am concerned with facts. To tell me, an inhabitant of Bengal, and to tell us that the Bengali Muhammadan's language is Urdu, is something which takes us by surprise. I know that there are some people who speak Urdu, but that is not the language which is spoken in Bengal. I remember some of the most eminent Moslem scholars who were at Cambridge and Oxford in my days continually telling me that the language spoken by Moslem gentlemen from Bengal was not Urdu but something entirely different. To say now that the Calcutta University is not to be blessed—I will not use the other word—because it does not encourage Muhammadans is saying something which is absolutely without foundation.

I did not come here to make a speech and I am not going to answer the various suggestions and questions raised as I did not hear the speeches, but merely gathered what was said from hearsay. I think that I am entitled to make an appeal to this House to vote this grant which has been asked for and which is a miserable grant. The question of it being miserly only arises if the paymaster has got enough money but does not pay, but this is an almost insolvent Government. They intend making some payment though not a generous payment and to come and say that this grant should be cut down is saying too much.

I hope that I have not spoken with any degree of objectionable warmth in the matter. I have some right to speak about matters of education. I am connected as many of you know with several educational institutions and I am practically the head of some of the biggest colleges in Calcutta. Although a Fellow, I am not officially entitled to speak for the University, but I will not prolong my speech, but I think I can make an appeal to you and I feel I ought to make an appeal

to my friends who are here to support this grant which has been proposed by the Hon'ble Minister.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Is my time 10 or 15 minutes?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I cannot allow 15 minutes.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Just as you direct, Sir.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Five minutes, if possible.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I shall try to finish my speech within five minutes.

This University is my own, my own dear University, but I can emphatically say that I do not like its present-day methods and activities. There is much in its present-day activities which I deplore, and I am so sorry that my own *alma mater* has now been brought down to this level and that it is in the hands of persons who do not care to conduct the University properly. I am very sorry that my friend, Mr. Haq, has raised a question which ought not to have been raised. It is no question of racial feeling that should have been raised here. I am perfectly sure that he never meant anything seriously, but, in his exuberance, he said something which he ought not have said. Then as regards the speech of Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, as I take it, the attitude and the ethics were those of some other person and it came to us with all the sweetness of his own nature and personality. As regards Dr. Moitra's speech, I can say very well that it is almost made to order by a demi-god, who has got entire possession of him and I do not propose to take any serious notice of that. By merely reading it out very loudly he has finished his mission. I am the last person to desire that my *alma mater* should be strangled. I, therefore, now come to you with the olive-branch in hand to propose peace and see how we can best deal with the matter and how we can keep our University here. It has been said that we must not kill the University and that we must not starve it. I quite accept that position. To my mind, as you know, it is best to take medicine in an empty stomach. The University has been going with an empty stomach for four months and this is just the time when we can give a drop of medicine. It will do them good, for is it not a fact that the University has now come down? Are there not apparent signs of that? Whether they are willing to say that or not, or whether their friends here so choose to admit it or not, the fact is that they have come down. They have written a letter to say that they are willing to expose all their accounts and give information to you. Why? It is only because of the hunger that is there. There is no question about that. They are coming down and this is just the time when we should give to them that help for, after all, we are the mightier body. It is the mighty who alone can be relenting. And who is the mightier of the two? We can be relenting to those who are smaller than ourselves. They are now down on their knees and asking for

money. Is this not the time when we can be relenting and lend our helping hand to an institution which is under our control and which we are bound to see that it fosters and does not dwindle? That is the position. Let us not, at the present moment, go into any other question. I must say that the position taken up by Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar in August last was perfectly correct. The position taken by him is still perfectly correct. To Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, for whom I have the greatest respect and I have no greater respect for any of my friends here, I must say that his reading of the law may be correct. I am no match for him there. I will not be able to come within three miles of him in that respect. But I must tell him that so long as we want an inquiry to be made into academic matters, surely the University can say, "that is not your province." But if they come and say, "we have a deficit of Rs. 5 lakhs, pray, Sir, help us with money," it is time for them to learn that I can ask the University to show me their accounts and ask them what they have been doing with public money. This position no friend of the Universtiy, however great he may be, should ignore or forget. The purse-string is in our hands. If you choose to be rude, if your attitude is this: "I will not show anything," mind you that the money is in our hands. We can strangle you, but we are magnanimous enough not to do that. We do not like to be mean. We do not like to take this opportunity of strangling anybody particularly our own University. It is now time for us all to think how we can make this University go on and at the same time get the reforms we want. We want democratisation certainly. We want the honeycomb there to be destroyed. We want and we must insist that the Hon'ble Minister, in three or four months' time, will bring in a Bill for amending the present Universities' Act and all the machinery of registered graduates and for removing forthwith all that which has reduced the University—my own mighty University of the days of Tawney and Croft—into nothing but a veritable workshop for training graduates, as I said once before, in the art of flunkyism and in the science of sycophancy. This I cannot tolerate. What was the University of Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri? Can he possibly recognise that University now in the present one? We have got no hold over the University except for the purse-strings, but there is another person who has got it—the Hon'ble Minister. Let us get hold of him. Let us give him this direction. We can give this Rs. 2½ lakhs now. The deficit is Rs. 5 lakhs and they will have to come up for another Rs. 3 lakhs. We can only give that if we find that they are behaving better and that the Hon'ble Minister is taking steps necessary to bring about the desired reforms in the University. If he does not do that, we will not pay. If the University does not choose to behave better and give us the information that we require and prevent waste of money over useless hobbies then we will not pay a pice more. Let that be distinctly understood. We would pay only on the distinct understanding that every

effort must be made by the Hon'ble Minister towards the democratisation of the University and towards removing many other undesirable things which my friend, Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, had discussed in his speech last year. If there is no effort made to attain these objects, then certainly we will not pay anything in future.

I would, therefore, ask, most humbly, my friends to consider whether we should now refuse the grant, now that we know that the University professors are without their pay for the last three or four months. It is a fact and a very sad fact that these gentlemen are without their pay. These are the gentlemen who have been teaching our boys for years together and these are the gentlemen who would be obliged to go away and leave the University. It will be tremendously difficult afterwards to get together these men in the University. This is just the time when in its empty stomach we should drop a little medicine. It will do wonderfully good work, I tell you. Let us, therefore, make this grant. Conditioned as it is, let the Hon'ble Minister over whom we have control, remember that we will never make any more payments to-morrow or hereafter, unless these conditions are satisfied. That is my submission to this Council. Let us make this grant to-day.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: May I say a few words?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: No you cannot speak now. The Hon'ble Minister in charge will now reply.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: But I, as a representative of the Calcutta University, am entitled to speak. (Several voices: "Order, order.")

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The question has been debated at some length and I am sorry to say with some amount of heat by a few members. In discussing this University question, I have more than once requested the members of this House not to forget the end they have in view, namely, the improvement of high education in this province. Several critics of the demand, including Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, asserted that their object was to improve the University. I have not the slightest doubt that the object of the critics of the University is to improve the University. The difference between the critics and the friends of the University is that they differ as to the line to be adopted about improving the University. But, unfortunately, in the several debates we had about the Calcutta University, personal questions and irrelevant issues were brought in. I can only say that the House ought to remember its dignity and duty, and it ought to cast aside these personal questions and irrelevant issues. If all these personal questions and irrelevant issues are cast aside, I may ask Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and others that if

they want to improve the University, could they do so by killing it outright? If the University is to be improved it must live and, therefore, must have immediately the necessary financial assistance. Another question that has been debated is that no action has yet been taken on the resolution of August, 1921, and from that point of view what treatment should be accorded to the Calcutta University. So far as I am concerned, I have followed one consistent line in the University matter all throughout and I would refer the members to the budget debate in March, 1921, the debate of August, 1921, and lastly, the budget debate of March, 1922. I have never changed. I have already assured the House that I shall stand by every word that I uttered in this Council in connection with the University. That is my position. I will explain my position even more fully: this Council wanted to appoint a committee to investigate into the affairs of the University, but the Government could not accept the resolution without first hearing what an important body like the University, had to say in the matter. I, therefore, appealed to the House in August, 1921, not to press for the appointment of the committee until we first heard what the University had got to say. The Council, however, thought otherwise and recommended the appointment of a committee by the resolution it passed. My promise, however, in my speech of August, 1921, was a promise to decide the question after I had the views of both sides. I did not promise to appoint a committee. In March, 1921, I criticised the financial administration of the University, perhaps far more severely than the severest critics of the University had ever done. I proceeded on facts and I may say, in passing, nobody will be more pleased than I, if I am really satisfied that my conclusions were wrong. I proceeded, however, on the last audit report that was available to me at that time—and the position then taken up by the University was that Government had ample materials before them in the shape of the Government audited accounts of the University. I not merely criticised the financial administration of the University, but with regard to the resolution of August, 1921, I maintained my former attitude, *viz.*, that I must wait till I had before me what the University had to say in the matter. Since then, an important change has taken place, and I have already informed the House of that change. We have been assured that the University will not withhold its financial affairs from the Government. That goes to the root of the whole question. I really hope that after this assurance of the University to which I referred in my opening speech, the House would be spared many of the arguments which, if I may say so without offence, were entirely irrelevant. This assurance I could not give in August, 1921, or on the 1st March, 1922. Well, if the University places all its financial affairs before me. I, as Minister responsible to this House for the proper administration of the Education Department which is now a transferred subject, must place before you such of the information relating to those affairs as I consider relevant.

I will not enter into the debatable question of law, but it is common sense that if the University or for the matter of that any public body wants money from the State coffers, then the representatives of the people and the Government responsible to those representatives are entitled to look into the accounts of that body. I may mention here that the great Universities of Oxford and Cambridge never took any help from the State coffers, but on account of the war owing to unfortunate circumstances these great Universities had to ask for State help. And when they asked for State help they had to accept the appointment of a Royal Commission and their affairs were fully investigated; they have estates from which they derive large income and the affairs even of their estates were fully investigated. Before a Minister could convince the Parliament that State grant was necessary, in the first place, it was necessary for the Minister himself to be convinced and, in the second place, it was necessary for him to convince the representatives of the people. It is, therefore, necessary that materials have got to be furnished and I must submit the relevant portions of such materials to the House.

When I have got these materials and, after I have seen further matrials in the shape of the recent audit reports, I shall have to decide as to whether I would accept the resolution of August, 1921, or not. Neither in August, 1921, nor in March, 1922, did I promise that I would accept the resolution as it stands and I do not promise to do that even to-day, but I promise to do what is just and right, namely, that I shall sift all the materials that are placed before me, and then act in the best interests of the country and consistently with the wishes of the House. It must also be remembered that the House, too, will have further materials. In March, 1921, I had no hope of getting these materials but since then, as I have said, the position has changed. But the House will have to wait for a short time more. When I get these materials I shall decide the question on its own merits, and if I do anything which the House does not approve, there would be time enough for the House to criticise my action. Therefore, on the very basis of the arguments of the critics of the University it would be wanting in logic and common sense, it would be wanting in common decency to kill the University which is the premier educational organisation in the whole of India.

One word more and I have done. My friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, has criticised the administration of the University on the allegation that it has ignored Muhammadan interests. I do not propose to enter into the merits of the question. I have made it quite clear that in my view it is the duty of this House to look to the financial administration of the University, and also into the question of its general improvement, but it is not right to interfere with academical matters. The question of Muhammadan representation is, no doubt, an important one. When

the question of legislation comes up—and I may tell the House that at present two Bills drafted by my department are lying on my table, but I regret to say that on account of the Council session and other pressing business, I have not had the time to examine them carefully—one of these Bills relates to the question of changing the constitution of the University. I think the proper time for Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq to go into the question of Muhammadan representation will be when this Bill is discussed. Will it be befitting to the Council to deprive the University, whatever its constitution may be, of the little help it asks for? I, therefore, submit that this demand should be passed and I hope that in spite of the many angry speeches it will be passed without a division.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: After the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister that the Calcutta University will submit its accounts to the Government, I think we have obtained some satisfaction for the present. In that case I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: So far as this question is concerned, a similar motion also stands in my name. Although just a few minutes remain, I think I have a right to place my remarks on record.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You have no right of reply.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I have a right of reply I ask for a ruling. I have only a few remarks to make which I hope I will be allowed.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You may make a personal explanation, if you like, but you have no right of reply.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: So far as this motion is concerned, I have been round this House and talked with all my Muhammadan friends. If I want a division, I can assure you my Muhammadan friends will vote for me, but the majority of them do not wish to wreck the Calcutta University at this stage. They are of opinion that we should at present support the Calcutta University and especially the Hon'ble Minister in this demand. In that view I have been asked by the majority of the Muhammadan members of this House not to press this motion to a division.

The following motion was then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: That the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)" for a grant to the Calcutta University, be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

24.—Administration of Justice.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I now call upon the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim to move item No. 153.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I rise to a point of order. My submission is that the Hon'ble Member cannot bring in a supplementary demand under the present circumstances. This grant was refused entirely at the last budget discussion and under the provision laid down by the Government of India Act, the remedy lies in section 72D. The Section runs thus:—

The estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the province shall be laid in the form of a statement before the Council in each year, and the proposals of the local government for the appropriation of provincial revenues and other moneys in any year shall be submitted to the vote of the Council in the form of demands for grants. The Council may assent, or refuse its assent, to a demand, or may reduce the amount therein referred to either by a reduction of the whole grant or by the omission or reduction of any of the items of expenditure of which the grant is composed.

Now in this case, the Council has refused its assent to the demand. The provision laid down under the above section runs thus:—

Provided that the local government shall have power, in relation to any such demand, to act as if it had been assented to, notwithstanding the withholding of such assent or the reduction of the amount therein referred to, if the demand relates to a reserved subject, and the Governor certifies that the expenditure provided for by the demand is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject.

This demand was refused, and His Excellency the Governor has certified to the extent of a certain amount but not entirely In these circumstances, no supplementary demand can be brought.

I now draw attention of the Council to section 93 of the Rules: it runs thus:—

When money has been spent on any service for which the vote of Council is necessary during any financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, a demand for the excess shall be presented to the Council by the Finance Member and shall be dealt with in the same way by the Council as if it were a demand for a grant

This is not the case; here the money has not been spent.

Now I turn to section 94 which runs thus:—

An estimate shall be presented to the Council for a supplementary or additional grant when—

(i) the amount voted in the budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year, or

(ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I rise to a point of order. Is my friend in order in making these observations before the motion for the demand of grant is moved by the Hon'ble Member in charge.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think he is in order in taking exception to the moving of the supplementary demand.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I submit that this demand does not come under clause (*i*) because it is not an amount which has been voted in the Budget but found insufficient, but here the whole amount was refused. Neither does it come under clause (*ii*) because a need has not arisen during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the Budget for that year. It was contemplated and placed before the Council for consideration, but was refused; so under these two rules, the supplementary demand cannot be placed. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the House to the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee—

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You have stated your point, you need not argue the matter.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I was just going to state, in support of my contention, what was the view of the——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You have raised a preliminary point that this demand ought not to have found place in the supplementary budget. Our ruling is that under rule 32—

An estimate shall be presented to the Council for a supplementary or additional grant when the amount voted *in the budget of a grant* is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year

Rule 26 referring to the voting of demands in the main Budget says—

A separate demand shall ordinarily be made in respect of *the grant proposed for each department of the Government*

In the present case the grant before the Council at the time of the voting of grants on the Budget was—

24 —Administration of Justice—Rs. 84,16,000.—Under rule 30, the Council declined to vote an item of Rs. 50,000 in that grant.

A reduced demand was then passed under head 24 — Administration of Justice.

The amount voted *in the Budget of the grant*, *i.e.*, the reduced demand has been found to be insufficient. Therefore, the motion is in order.

There is also another reason why this motion is in order apart from what I have said, and this reason would apply in a case where the entire demand of a Reserved Department, say Administration of Justice, was

refused by the Council, and part of it was certified by His Excellency the Governor. Government is entitled under proviso (*a*) to sub-section (*2*) of section 72D of the Government of India Act to treat a sum certified by the Governor as if it has been assented to, that is to say, as voted, and if the amount certified, which is to be treated as voted, is insufficient, then automatically the case falls within clause (*i*) of sub-section (*1*) of rule 32, and a supplementary demand can be put forward.

On both of these grounds, Government are entitled to put forward this supplementary demand.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: The same arguments applied to the Mounted Police grant.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: But you never raised the point before.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): I move that a sum of Rs. 34,000 be granted under head "24.—Administration of Justice" for the retention of the Paper Book Department of the Calcutta High Court for the year 1922-23.

As the time is very limited, I do not want to say anything at present, but I reserve the right of speaking later on.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 34,000 under head "24.—Administration of Justice" for the retention of the Paper Book Department of the Calcutta High Court be refused.

I had the honour, and I may say, the privilege of opposing a similar demand when it was brought up for the first time in 1921, and it had been my luck ever since, on two occasions at any rate, to oppose this demand, and to-day it is my pleasure to begin the opposition to the grant of this money by the Council. I have very little to add to what I said on the last occasion, which I hope will be fresh in the memory of the members of this Council. Briefly stated, the position is this: Paper books in the case of second appeals were never prepared by the vakils, but by the officers of the High Court. It is only in the case of first appeals, otherwise known as regular appeals, that the vakils have been preparing paper books, for the last 40 years without any complaint from anybody. It was only in the year 1920 that Their Lordships in the Privy Council suggested that an improvement might be made in the preparation of paper books in cases of appeals that ultimately went up to the Privy Council, that these books might be prepared in the office of the Court from the very beginning so as to avoid doing the same work twice, securing expedition and minimising the cost to the litigants. When the High Court revised these rules, regarding the Paper Book Department, it said that the Privy Council had directed that the preparation of paper books in all first appeals will be done under the supervision of the High Court. Now, Sir, we all know that the Privy Council never meant anything of that sort. It only referred to the first appeals of

all cases which would ultimately go to them, so that the litigants would be saved the expense and worry and trouble of having the paper books prepared once for the High Court and then again for the Privy Council. The Privy Council suggested that the paper books should be so prepared that after the High Court had disposed of the appeal and the case came before the Privy Council, no further expense and labour on this account would be necessary. This question was considered and the High Court maintained that 50 per cent. of all appeals went up to the Privy Council. We challenged that statement at the time, and we now find in answer to a question put, Government have, at last, accepted what we said then, that not more than five per cent. of all appeals went to the Privy Council. That being the position, the Privy Council's direction would only refer to 5 per cent. of the appeals, but the High Court has interpreted the order to mean that the direction given by the Privy Council referred to the entire set, whether it be first appeals, that ended with the High Court judgment, and whether it went to the Privy Council or not. We pointed out at that time that this ruling of the High Court meant extra expense to the litigant. In that view, we refused the grant and in 1921 the High Court modified its rules, but still the rates were unnecessarily high, much higher than the pleaders ever charged the litigant public. It is interesting to note that the Paper Book Department of the High Court has not been able to perform the work more expeditiously than the vakils used to do. Yesterday, in reply to certain questions put by me and Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, we got these interesting figures. In the year 1920, the figures of paper books filed by the vakils amounted to as many as 242, of which 146 consisted of 100 pages or more. Those prepared by the Paper Book Department of the High Court in 1921 amounted to 38 of which 5 only consisted of 100 pages or over. From January, 1922, the same High Court prepared 5 books consisting of 100 pages. So, though the department has been working for nearly two years, it is clear that the High Court Paper Book Department is more expensive from the litigants' point of view than when the work of preparing the books was entrusted to the vakils. We also find that, whereas the vakils prepared 250 paper books, the High Court prepared only 38. Now everyone knows that neither as regards expense, nor as regards time taken up in the preparation of the Paper books has there been the slightest improvement by the introduction of the new rules in the High Court. I submit that these rules cannot be satisfactory, and there is no justification for the preparation of these paper books by the High Court. The Council has refused this grant on two occasions, and I submit that they ought not to be asked to reconsider their decision again. They have rejected this demand; why should they be again asked to go back upon their decision? The time at my disposal is very short and there are other speakers, so I will not further detain the Council.

With these few words, I beg to oppose this demand.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: It is with feelings of sorrow that I have to move, for the third time, this Council for refusing the demand for the Paper Book Department. To my mind, it appears that the Government case is so hopelessly weak that the Hon'ble Member in charge did not venture to put his case before us. He is waiting for our speeches to reply later. This shows that he has not got one word to say in support of it. He has been twice defeated. I am sure that, if left to himself, he would not have come to this Council with this proposal, but he is carrying out the orders of the Government of India. That is the reason why he has come out with this demand. Well, on the merits, I do not think that anything need be said. This is the third time that we are discussing it. It is well known that there is nothing to be said on their behalf. We have found out—I would not go into details which can be found on page 23—that the work that is being done now is of no value at all and that the total income last year was about Rs. 8,000 and the expenditure Rs. 50,000. That alone is a sufficient justification for throwing it out.

Then we come to the important constitutional question My friend Mr. S. R. Das has told the members many things about the necessity of making this grant, but I do not think that he is at all right. It is a great constitutional question and, as His Excellency has told us, it is a perfectly anomalous position that the Government of India should demand and that we should supply. The Government of India know full well that we are in a terrible deficit When we went to Simla over the question of the financial injustice to us and asked them to help us in that situation, they paid little heed. Therefore, why we should carry out the behests of the Government of India, I do not see. Why should any of my friends think it essential to get all his friends of the Theatre Road Club to oppose the interests of the country, I, for one do not understand. If there is anything that is constitutional, it is this. We must learn to stand on our own rights and anybody who teaches to the contrary, is, to my mind, a man who is working directly against the interests of his own motherland. This is purely a constitutional question. We must refuse to be saddled like this. The Government of India have no right to saddle us in this way, and I would ask my brother members here to remember that if we were once willing to allow this demand that had been made here, it would lead to our ruin because other departments would come up with such demands and we would have to meet them. Much has been said by my friend Mr. Fazl-ul Haq on the subject and I shall not detain you. But what I say is this. There is yet another aspect of the thing. Why should we pay Rs. 50,000 at all, and for whose interests? The Privy Council said something different. The High Court Judges in their over-zeal have made some rules. It is not the High Court Judges who are going to pay from their own salaries. It is not the Government of India that are going to pay. It is clearly a case to be refused. It is Rs. 50,000 to-day, it will be

Rs. 60,000 to-morrow and Rs. 70,000 the day after and so on. We m be very careful not to allow this recurring expenditure even at the requ of the Government of India. It is our own look-out and we must look our funds. We shall not allow them to be frittered away like th With Rs. 50,000 we have the power of borrowing Rs. 5 or 6 lakhs, w which we can help our nation-building departments, sanitation a education. Is there any reason why the Government of India shou trouble us in this way? The Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, with t serenity which he possesses, is smiling. He is bound to do so. He a highly sensible man and an ex-Chief Justice. He knows the ridiculo position in which he has been placed. Therefore, I do not think th much argument is necessary. It is our bounden duty, duty u ourselves and duty unto our motherland, that we should throw out t demand. That is the position.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: The merits of the question ha been very well gone into by Maulvi A. K Fazl-ul Haq. It has a been fully discussed during the last two Budget discussions, so th is hardly any necessity to go into details. One thing which strikes is this, that this demand for the Paper Book Department seems to like an unrecognised child. Nobody seems to like taking any resp sibility for it. This Council has twice refused the demand and I Excellency the Governor does not think that in the discharge of responsibilities to Parliament he need restore this grant. He o restored the grant, because he had been asked by the Government India to do this. I have looked into the Government of India Act, b I do not know under what rules the Government of India can force t hands of the Governor of Bengal The position is not only anomalou but against the very principle of provincial autonomy Practically comes to this, that it is a matter which is only approved by the Gove ment of India and for that I do not see why the Government of Beng or the Bengal Council should be asked to vote this grant. The Sir, it raises another question of principle for which we ha been fighting this week. This curious procedure of the Governme coming to this Council and asking members to revise their decisi over and over again is a proposition which can no longer be tolerate Is this Council to be treated like children? Are the members going be told that their decision does not mean anything? Must they go revising it, time after time, so long as that decision does not tally wi the Government view? Is this the position that is to be tolerated this Council? I submit that we should not stoop to that indignity. entreat, as I have entreated on a previous occasion, that all the membe of this Council should remember the dignity of this Council. Twic after due deliberation, after due consideration, you have thrown o this demand. Twice His Excellency has vetoed it under the orders of t Government of India and not in recognition of his responsibilities

Parliament. For what earthly reason should the Council be asked to reconsider its decision?

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: This matter has been discussed twice before and this is the third time that we are discussing it. This question has been fully dealt with by my predecessors who have addressed this Council, so I do not find that I can add anything more.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: It is the third time that this question has been brought forward in this Council. His Excellency told us that he had been obliged to send this question again to us owing to a mandate from the Government of India to restore the amount. I do not know under what authority the Government of India ask us to vote this grant.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot question the action of His Excellency the Viceroy.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I am simply asking a question—under what rule do the Government of India come to us in such matters. Whatever may be the reason, His Excellency has done well in sending back the question. It would not have been proper on his part to restore the grant because the demand is not of such a nature as requires the special sanction of His Excellency under the provisions for the restoration of grants. I do not like to take up much time of the Council. I will simply refer to the observations of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department made in 1921, when the question first came up before the Council:—

> We must deal with the question from the point of view of the general public and carefully consider how far public interest is going to be affected by the question before this Council and not from the point of view of any professional gentlemen, however much they may be affected by the operation of the rules laid down by the High Court.

We have seen that it is neither beneficial to the public nor in any way expeditious, because we hear the department only prepared 38 paper books last year, but the year before last the pleaders did file as many as 200 paper books. Besides the cost of the preparation of paper books has been made prohibitive. How does it benefit the public or the litigant? We cannot support a department from the public exchequer without taking into consideration its desirability or utility. On the first occasion, the question was vetoed by a large majority. I believe I voted against it and only 20 supported the proposal of the work being done by officials. On the second occasion, the question was vetoed by a large majority and no reason has been adduced to change our opinion. I strongly oppose it.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I did not intend to intervene in this debate, but I want to correct, or at least endeavour to correct, an error into which my friend Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq seems to have fallen. My friends Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq solemnly stated to this House that, in accordance with an answer given to a question of Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, the vakils filed 242 appeals in 1920, whereas the Paper Book Department prepared only 38 paper books. My friends ought to have noticed that in that answer it was stated that in 1920 the vakils *filed* 242 appeals, not that they *prepared* 242 paper books. There is a vast difference between the two. This is quite apparent from the last part of the answer which my friend Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has forgotten to mention. The 242 appeals filed in 1920, dated from 1915 onwards or, in other words, out of the 242 appeals which the vakils filed in 1920, many of them, at least some of them, took five years to get ready, whereas the 38 paper books which were referred to as the work done by the Department are books prepared in that year. So you cannot compare the two. This is an error into which my friends seem to have fallen and which I thought it my duty to correct.

I do not desire to say anything with reference to what my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has said regarding me, except this that I do not admit that he alone has the interest of the country at heart.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I thought that I would not intervene in this debate, but as this motion has come before this House or rather this demand has come before this House for the third time, I decided that at least I should be made aware of the real facts before I gave my vote. The Council rejected this demand on two occasions and the demand has again been made for the third time. As soon as I came to know that the demand had been made, I made inquiries and I have come to learn that the rates are still high. I was told that Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq in his speech stated that the vakils would be able to do the work at the rate of Re. 1-6-0, whereas the Paper Book Department demanded Rs. 3. After that, I have been also told that the rates have been reduced to Re. 1-4-0. If that is so, then to me it seems that the rate, the existing rate, after the rules have been modified by the High Court, seems to me to be lower than what Maulvi A. K. Fazl-uul Haq said ought to be the proper rate. That is what has been represented to me and I think that Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, in his reply, would let the House know whether that was a correct respresentation. I also read in the newspapers that the Paper Book Department could not do the work so expeditiously as the vakils used to do and in fact certain figures have been placed before this House. I also made inquiries about that and I was told that that was a fact: no doubt, but there were certain circumstances which must be taken into

consideration. One of the circumstances pointed out to me was that an initial deposit was made at first and after the initial deposit was made, the Paper Book Department decided to do so much work as was covered by the initial deposit and for some reason or other the total cost was not deposited in the High Court, so that the High Court might finish the work. In a particular appeal if Rs. 200 would be required and if the initial deposit be only Rs. 50, the High Court is in a doubtful position whether the Government would pay the remainder or not. The Paper Book Department has decided that it would do so much work as would be covered by Rs. 50 and until and unless a further deposit were made, it would not proceed with the work further. It was represented to me that it was on account of this difficulty that it could not do the work so expeditiously as it could have done if the entire cost were deposited. I do not know whether that is a fact. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Administration of Justice will enlighten the House on that matter and if that is a fact, then certainly this delay may be explained. It was represented to me that in order to make out a case that the Paper Book Department could not do the work so expeditiously, the litigants did not deposit the cost, I mean the entire cost, after depositing the initial cost. I do not know whether it is a fact. If that is so, then certainly there is some excuse for this delay. It is on these points that I want further information before I decide one way or the other.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: During the last few days, a farce has been played in this Council. There was no discussion upon any amendment excepting one, and upon that a division was called and 36 voted for it. On the rest there was no discussion except by those who sent in their motions; there was no division; and every motion has been lost and this Council has been made a laughing stock of the whole country.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Is the hon'ble member in order in referring to matters which have absolutely no connection with the subject under discussion?

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This Council should be in a position to discuss every motion that is before it—it is a matter of very great importance. If no time is given and motions are lost in this way (I must say that I was against a great many of these motions) people will say that this Council consists of fools only.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The rules will have to be changed then and if you want to do that, you will have to move His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: May I draw your attention to the expression used that the Council consists of fools?

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I did not say that. I said that people would say that.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Why should Mr. D. C. Ghose take objection to that?

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Does the cap fit him?

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The matter is so very urgent that I, being a University member, had no time to speak on the University motion.

Coming to this motion, I should like to know what grounds the High Court made for asking us to revise our decision upon this matter. This Council decided that it would make no grant for the cost of the preparation of the paper books. We gave our reasons for our decision and it is not necessary to dilate on them to-day. I should like to know what are the reasons for distributing the old state of things. It is the habit of disturbing the old state of things that leads to heart-burning, agitation and disturbances all round the country. Why should the state of things be changed? It may be said that the Privy Council asked for it. The Privy Council only asked for a few cases above Rs. 10,000 in value and not for the rest of the cases. The people of this country do not want it. They have unmistakably shown their abhorence of this measure. The High Court pleaders are disgusted. All this is a matter of *zid* and nothing more than *zid*. Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has given the reasons of the High Court. I should like to know his own private opinion about this matter. I should like him to say what is his own experience in the matter. Are Government printed books necessary? In the first place, these paper books are necessary because most of the Judges are ignorant of Bengali. Why should the litigant public be made to pay so large a sum of money for bringing their cases before the Judges who do not know Bengali? That is the first reason. The second is, why should not the litigants be allowed to have their own choice in preparing the paper books? Why should not the appellants and respondents be allowed to make their own paper books? There is a Bengali proverb that "a woman who loves a child more than its mother is a witch." The High Court loves the litigant public more than the litigant public themselves or their pleaders. That love is very suspicious. I say that this state of things cannot be allowed to go on. There is a great deal of strained feeling between the Judges and the pleaders because of the *zid*, the well-known *zid* of a certain Judge of the High Court.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): I rise to a point of order. Is the member in order in referring to a particular Judge?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You must withdraw it.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I cannot withdraw the remark on the ground that it is unfounded, but I would withdraw it on the ground that it is not right. I have stated a fact.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: He must withdraw the remark, Sir.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Whatever you may think the facts to be, you must withdraw your remarks unconditionally.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I will not withdraw it unconditionally, I would rather withdraw myself from the Chamber.

[The member then walked out of the Council Chamber.]

Maulvi YAKUNUDDIN AHMED: This is the third time that this subject has come to the Council. After the passing of the Amusement Act, the Stamp Act and the Court-fees Act by this Council, the High Court or the Member in charge of the Judicial Department expects that if the motion be placed before the Council it will be passed. The members rejected the motion by an overwhelming majority—not by a majority of one vote—on the last two occasions. I, therefore, think it is highly improper to bring forward this motion in the Council a third time. It may be hoped that some of those who voted against it formerly may vote for it now and they might have been won over. In my opinion it is a luxury to employ translators for the preparation of paper books when there are highly qualified vakils with University education to do it.

Under the circumstances, I oppose the demand for the grant.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I need hardly remind the House that demands for the Paper Book Department were rejected on two previous occasions by the majority of members of this Council. As regards the constitutional position, it was briefly indicated by His Excellency the Governor in his address to the Council. As the House is well aware, it is the Government of India that is responsible for the administration of the High Court and not the Bengal Government. The Bengal Government, however, has to supply the funds for the administration of the High Court, but the Government of India is in a

position, with reference to the administration of the High Court, to tell the Government of Bengal that certain demands of the High Court ought to be conceded. A question has also been raised as regards the position of His Excellency in a matter of this kind. The rule on this point will be found in the Instructions to Governors printed in the Council Manual, at paragraph 7:—

> We do further hereby especially require and charge you . . . . . that all orders issued by our Secretary of State, or by our Governor-General in Council on our behalf, to whatever matters relating, are duly complied with.

A complaint was made that I did not explain what the demand was for. The only reason was that I had made so many speeches on this subject that I thought I should not take up the time of the Council by going over it again. However, the position is this. The learned Judges of the High Court are responsible for doing their own business and I think it will be admitted by all fair-minded members of this House that it should be left to the learned Judges to say what is the proper procedure they should adopt in conducting their business. The unfortunate position is, that so far as preparation of the paper books is concerned, a difference of opinion has arisen between the learned Judges on the one hand, and the vakils of the High Court on the other. It is perfectly true that the vakils of the High Court for a long time have been preparing paper-books in what are called the first or regular appeals. The High Court received certain instructions from the Privy Council to the effect that cases that are likely to go up to the Privy Council on appeal should be prepared under the supervision of the High Court. And the learned Judges say that for some time in many of the paper books that were prepared by the vakils the work has not been satisfactorily done. I think any one, who looks at the matter in a fair-minded way, will agree with me that the Hon'ble Judges are the best persons to say whether the preparation of the paper books should be done under the supervision of the High Court or the vakils and I respectfully but confidently submit that the decision arrived at by the High Court in the matter should be accepted. After all, the learned Judges are quite alive to the responsibility of their position and they can be trusted not to do anything by way of changing the practice which has obtained for some time unless they are fully convinced that it is necessary to do so in the interest of the administration. I further submit that this Council is not the proper body to decide the question, especially when the High Court is so emphatic in its opinion, that the paper books which they have to deal with ought to be prepared under the supervision of the learned Judges. That, I submit, is a reasonable position, and, as I have said, in a matter of this kind, the opinion of the High Court ought to be given the greatest possible weight. At the same time, I do not for one moment suggest that this Council, which has been asked to vote a certain demand, has got no right to say whether

that demand is right or not, but when you have all the facts placed before you and you find that the learned Judges have repeatedly expressed their opinion that we must alter the arrangement, then I submit that this House has discharged its duty. It has been said by some of the speakers, notably by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Haq, who moved the first motion, that the High Court has not been able to manage this department efficiently. As regards that, they did not for some time prepare as many books as might be expected in the ordinary course, but it must be remembered that this department was started under the greatest possible difficulties. Although a nominal beginning was made in 1921, it was only in July, 1921, that the establishment was put in order and the department set properly working. We have been watching very carefully and you may take it that the learned Judges have also been watching the working of this department with a great deal of care. They will undoubtedly consider from time to time whether the rules ought to be modified or not. They have received deputations from the learned vakils and they have conferred and discussed the matter with them. Having done all that, they have made some modifications in the rules which have enabled the department to work with more expedition and at a much less cost, than before. My latest information is that, at the present moment, about 20 to 25 appeal cases are being prepared by this department. If they go on at this rate there would be no ground for complaining of any delay. As regards the cost, even the learned vakils could not do it for very much less having regard to the fact that wages and prices of materials have gone up. They themselves were not content with the old rates. We have laid it down and the High Court has accepted the condition that, whatever might happen, this department must be self-supporting, that is to say, no charge is to be made on the general revenues of the province for this department. The High Court has accepted this condition and they are trying their best to fulfil it. They have also agreed to an expert in accounts examining the whole system. We will depute the expert and that expert will advise us whether any further modifications are necessary. I submit to the House that they cannot expect the High Court to go further than that at this stage. There is also this to be borne in mind that the demand that is being made is for the rest of this year. The establishment is there, the staff has been engaged, the work has been taken in hand, and it is not reasonable to ask the High Court to disband the establishment altogether and turn out the employees causing great inconvenience to the litigants who will have to be told that although we have taken their money we cannot do their work. I say this on behalf of Government that I am willing further to negotiate with the High Court to see if it is not possible for the learned Judges and the learned vakils to come to some sort of understanding on the point. After all some of the junior vakils used to earn something by preparing paper books and they have my sympathy. It is very

unfortunate that the High Court should be dragged into a controversy like this, for I think nothing could be further from the desire of the people of Bengal than that constant criticisms should be levelled at the High Court for making particular arrangements for the proper discharge of their duties.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: May I offer a personal explanation? Mr. S. R. Das remarked that I had made a statement which was not correct and he expressed the hope that I did not deliberately misrepresent the facts. All that I said was that the number of the printed papers prepared by the vakils was 242. I got this figure in a reply to the question No. 282 asked by Babu Surendra Nath Mallik. Granting that the paper books prepared by the vakils numbered 242 up to the year 1922, the average would be 80, whereas the average prepared by the High Court did not exceed 38 and our position is thus still maintained.

The motion of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq was then put to the vote. A division was taken with the following result.

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nimani.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhereswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.

Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Parrett, Mr. P.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 38 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

The original demand was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Wednesday, the 12th July, 1922, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 12th July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 93 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Work in Registration Department.

***LXXVII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that there has been an increase of registration work in the Registration Department;

(*ii*) that the existing staff has to cope with the increased work;

(*iii*) that the rule enjoining the completion of registration at least within three days is not being observed in many registration offices; and

(*iv*) that the executants are being inconvenienced and put to loss on account of the delay in registration?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking immediate steps in the matter?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps to inquire what annual savings are effected in the fees realised for lengthy documents and to see if those savings can be utilised for redressing the grievances above referred to?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) (*i*) There has been no increase of registration work. In fact registrations fell from 2,086,448 in 1920 to 1,855,944 in 1921, *i.e.*, by 11 per cent. and for the first three months of 1922, for which figures are available, 482,028 documents were registered against 572,298 documents for the corresponding period of 1921, showing a decrease of 15 per cent.

(*ii*) As the number of documents presented for registration is always fluctuating, the permanent staff is supplemented by temporary establishment.

(*iii*) There is no rule enjoining the "completion of registration" at least within three days, Rule 80 (Registration Manual) enjoins the prompt return of documents after registration.

(*iv*) and (*b*) Complaints have been received about the delay in registration. The stock of Register-books for copying documents had unfortunately run short, but steps have been taken to replenish the supply.

(*c*) During 1920, for which figures have been separately compiled, the fees realised under Article N of the Registration Fee Table for copying lengthy documents amounted to Rs. 2,88,575 while Government spent Rs. 1,78,473 on temporary establishment only.

Fan for Mr. C. R. Das in his prison room.

***LXXVIII. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the date when the use of a fan for Mr. C. R. Das was recommended by his doctor, and also the respective dates, when orders were passed on the recommendation and when he was actually allowed the use of a fan?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that special class prisoners who are allowed the use of fans have to bear the cost of these fans and of the electric installation?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what will happen to these fans after the release of the prisoners concerned?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) The medical attendant to Mr. C. R. Das recommended a fan for him on 22nd March; order was issued on 31st March and the fan was ready on 11th April, 1922. As Mr. C. R. Das was meanwhile removed to a room in the Indian under-trial yard on the upper ward which was comparatively cooler and was subsequently permitted to remain in it, the Superintendent asked for sanction on 15th April to the installation of another fan in this yard also. Sanction was accorded on 28th April and the fan was ready on 3rd May, 1922.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The fans will be taken away after release by the prisoners concerned.

Inspection notes of non-official visitors of Alipore Central Jail.

***LXXIX. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased

to lay on the table the notes of inspection, if any, by non-officials who have visited the Alipore Central Jail since December last?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased also to lay on the table the remarks of the Jail Superintendent, if any, on such notes?

(*c*) Has any action been taken by the Government to give effect to the suggestions of the Jail visitors, official and non-official? If any action has been taken, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state it?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) and (*b*) The inspection notes by non-official visitors and the remarks of the Superintendents on these notes are for the use of the Jail authorities and not intended for publication. Government do not therefore propose to lay them on the table.

(*c*) The Jail authorities do their best to give effect to such of the suggestions as are reasonable or practicable.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware that extracts from the inspection notes by a non-official visitor to the Dacca Jail have been recently issued to the Press by the Publicity Officer, Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am not aware of that.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether unlike inspection notes by non-official visitors to the Alipore Central Jail, the inspection notes of visitors to the Dacca Jail are for the use of persons other than the jail authorities and intended for publication?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The question that is now put is absolutely different from the question now on the list. I submit that it is not right for any member when one particular question is put down, that he should ask a number of questions which are really difficult to answer off-hand. I submit that the proper course is that if a question like this is put, notice should be given.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: The Hon'ble Member should not usurp the functions of the Deputy-President. It is for the Deputy-President to allow or disallow.

Venereal diseases.

***LXXX. Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the fact that a large number of prostitutes infected with venereal diseases flock to every fair or *mêla* in Bengal?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister been drawn to the insanitary way in which these women of ill-fame often behave

themselves by admitting a large number of people every day and by exposing themselves to the public view being often in huts of 7 feet by 3 feet without proper *pardah* or fencing?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking measures by which the influx of women of ill-fame and infected with loathsome diseases to *mêlas* may be prevented, by examination or otherwise, and also of introducing, for the benefit of young men, visible instruction by means of lantern slides or by cinematograph films showing the danger of venereal diseases?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) and (*b*) It is well-known that a large number of women of the unfortunate class ordinarily ply their trade at fairs and *mêlas* in Bengal and it is a matter of common knowledge that venereal disease is often prevalent amongst such women. Government have obtained no special information regarding the conditions referred to in question (*b*).

(*c*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill gives wider powers than the present Act for the control of venereal disease. The Director of Public Health has been asked to consider the feasibility of propaganda work to instruct the illiterate classes on this subject of venereal disease; but *primâ facie* it is clear that work on these lines can best be accomplished by local societies arranging for lectures for men only. The Department of Public Health would be glad to co-operate in any well-advised campaign of this kind.

Admission into the Calcutta Medical College.

***LXXXI. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the names of the members of the Selection Board for admitting students to the Calcutta Medical College last year?

(*b*) Was it correct that no member excepting the Principal interviewed the candidates for admission?

(*c*) If so, what was the reason?

(*d*) Have the members of the Selection Board submitted any report of their work?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table?

(*f*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of asking the members to submit their report soon?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (1) Principal, Medical College; (2) Dr. H. Suhrawardy, M.D., F.R.C.S.; (3) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Ray, M.D., F.R.C.S.; (4) Rai Upendra Nath Brahmachari Bahadur, M.A., M.D.; (5) Major T. L. Bomford, I.M.S.; and (6) Dr. Nani Lal Pan, M.B.

(*b*) Government are informed that two members of the committee were present on two or three occasions last year when the Principal was interviewing the candidates.

(*c*) In 1921—for the first time—every candidate was personally interviewed by the Principal with the full approval of the committee who asked that they should be informed of his views so as to assist them in the selection of suitable candidates. The committee were invited to attend at these interviews which occupied two or three hours daily during a period of four to five weeks.

(*d*) The reply is in the negative. No report has been called for as it was not thought necessary and no complaint has ever been made about their work.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

(*f*) The reply is in the negative.

Mayo Hospital, Calcutta.

***LXXXII. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state in detail—

(*i*) how the Mayo Native Hospital in Calcutta came into existence; and

(*ii*) how the Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery in the Calcutta Medical College has always been appointed as the Surgeon-Superintendent of the said hospital?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of substituting the word "Indian" for the word "Native" in the Mayo Native Hospital?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) The hospital was originally founded in 1792 for Indian patients and refounded in 1874. The Report of the Governors for 1920 gives a full account of its origin.

(*ii*) There is nothing to show what originally led to the appointment of the Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery as the Surgeon-Superintendent of the Mayo Hospital. The appointment is made by the Governors.

(*b*) This is a matter for the decision of the Governors.

Governing Body of Calcutta Medical College and Hospital.

***LXXXIII. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there are any non-official Indian Members in the Governing Body of the Calcutta Medical College and the Calcutta Medical College Hospital?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of admitting a few non-official Indians—both Hindus and Muhammadans—to the Governing Body of each?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) There is no Governing Body for the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital. There is a council to assist the Principal of the College in matters relating to lectures and such matters of hospital administration. It consists of the members of the staff and there is no non-official member on this council.

(*b*) The reply is in the negative.

Drinking water-supply in parts of Burdwan.

***LXXXIV. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is a great scarcity of drinking-water in a large number of villages in the thanas of Jamalpur, Rayna and Memari in the district of Burdwan, and that to this scarcity of good drinking water has been attributed the outbreak of cholera in several of the villages?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government or the District Board to give relief to the distressed villages?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) The Minister has no special knowledge of any scarcity of drinking water in the areas mentioned. He is, however, aware that there was this year a general shortage of drinking water in the rural areas of Bengal. Government cannot assume financial responsibility for rural water-supply which is the direct concern of the local bodies. The question of water-supply will, however, be considered in connection with anti-malaria operations.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Sittings of the Standing Committee on Excise.

157. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Standing Committee on Excise during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): Four sittings of the Standing Committee on Excise were held during 1921-22. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings confidential.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: May I ask by whom these rules have been prescribed?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: They have been prescribed by His Excellency the Governor.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: May I further ask as to whether this Council is authorised to amend these rules, so that the resolutions of the Standing Committee on Excise be subject to confirmation by the Council and that they may be binding on the Government as well?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: No

Sittings of Standing Committee on Agriculture.

158. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Seven sittings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture were held during the year 1921-22. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings confidential.

Sittings of Irrigation Standing Committee.

159. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Irrigation Standing Committee during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): There were four sittings of the Irrigation Standing Committee during the last official year. The proceedings of Standing Committees are confidential.

Sittings of Land Revenue Standing Committee.

160. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Land Revenue Standing Committee during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): There were eight sittings. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings are confidential.

Overbridge between Khulna railway and steamer stations.

161. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that there is no railway overbridge connecting the railway and steamer stations at Khulna?

(*b*) Is it correct that a man was run over and killed by an engine while shunting at the said station?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of constructing an overbridge at the station?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A man was run over and killed on the 3rd August, 1920; he was a trespasser and there was no evidence to show that he was proceeding from the railway station to the steamer station.

(*c*) No. It has been ascertained that persons are not likely to be run over, if they use the authorised route between the railway station platform and the steamer station, which is over the level crossing and along the river front.

Judicial and non-judicial stamps.

162. Mr. S. MAHBOOB ALEY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, separately, the amount of revenue derived in Bengal during April and May, 1921, and during the same months in 1922, from the sale of—

(*i*) Judicial stamps; and

(*ii*) non-judicial stamps?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):—

	April, 1921.	May, 1921	April, 1922.	May, 1922.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
(i)	31,28,464	14,63,638	29,73,547	15,75,533
(ii)	8,04,225	7,75,230	7,25,834	9,07,762
	39,32,689	22,38,868	36,99,381	24,83,295

The above figures exclude refunds.

Births and deaths in Vishnupur (Bankura).

163. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of births and deaths in the subdivision of Vishnupur, district Bankura, during the last year?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 163, showing the births and deaths of Vishnupur Subdivision in the district of Bankura for the year 1921.

Name of Subdivision	Names of Towns and Thanas	Births.	Deaths.
Vishnupur ...	Vishnupur Town	358	531
	Sonamukhi "	237	363
	Vishnupur Police Station ...	594	836
	Joypur " " ...	797	1,134
	Radhanagar " " ...	1,151	1,605
	Sonamukhi " " ...	2,115	3,775
	Indas " " ...	1,482	2,576
	Kotalpur " " ...	1,231	2,131
	Seramanipur " " ...	953	1,544
	Total ...	8,918	14,495

Stud bulls in "khas mahal" areas.

164. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether any stud bulls are maintained by the Government in the khas mahal areas for the improvement of the breed of cattle?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the places where such bulls are maintained;

(*ii*) the number of such bulls; and

(*iii*) the areas for which they are so maintained?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of maintaining such bulls in the khas mahal areas for the improvement of the breed of cattle?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 164.

(i) Place where stud bulls are maintained.	(ii) Number of such bulls.	(iii) Areas for which they are maintained.
BAKARGANJ.		Acres.
Khepupara (within colonization area) ...	1	112,288
DARJEELING.		
Chobobasti, Nimbong and Algara (Kalimpong).	3	114,216
Takdah, Barbotia, Pulungdung, Singhongdera and Kizon blocks (West Teesta Khas Mahals).	5	14,093
Kulbong Khas Mahals	1	1,645

Patuakhali High English School.

165. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Patuakhali High English School is working at a deficit and is in danger of being closed if the present state of things continues?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount of money spent by the Government for the construction of the building and the acquisition of lands for the purpose of the school?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that Patuakhali is mostly inhabited by Muhammadans?

(*d*) Is it correct that three Government schools were opened at Perojpur, Bhola and Jhalakati during the time of the partition of Bengal, but Patuakhali had no Government school?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of provincialising the High English School there?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Government have just been informed that the school is working at a deficit, which can be avoided by judicious administration of the available resources. The Divisional Inspector has been in communication with the school on the subject. Government gives a grant of Rs. 185 per mensem.

(*b*) The total requirements were—

	Rs.
Land acquisition	3,823
Building	24,947
Raising the site ..	2,000
Equipment	2,000
Total	32,770

Of this, local contributions were Rs. 6,000 and Government gave Rs. 26,770.

(*c*) Yes

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

Probationer's scheme in the Bengal Judicial Service.

166. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the probationer's scheme is likely to be introduced in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial);

(*ii*) what is the reason for the delay in the publication of the scheme;

(*iii*) whether he is aware of the discontent that prevails among the officiating Munsifs owing to the non-publication of the scheme;

(*iv*) whether he will be pleased to lay on the table a list of the officiating Munsifs who have completed two years of actual service but are still drawing a salary of Rs. 300;

(*v*) whether he will be pleased to state the date from which effect would be given to the scheme when published;

(*vi*) whether the delay in the publication of the scheme is due to any difference of opinion between the High Court and the Government; and

(*vii*) whether it is a fact that there is a vacancy in the existing cadre of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial), if so, when did that vacancy take place and why is it not being filled up?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*i*) and (*ii*) It has been decided that the scheme should await the report of the Retrenchment Committee.

(*iii*) The answer is in the negative.

(*iv*) A list is placed on the table.

(*v*) *Vide* answer to (*i*) and (*ii*). No definite date can be given.

(*vi*) Does not arise.

(*vii*) There is one vacancy with effect from 12th April, 1922, the filling up of which is still under the consideration of the High Court.

List of the officiating Munsifs who have completed 2 years of actual service, but are still drawing a salary of Rs. 300 per mensem, referred to in the reply to clause (iv) of unstarred question No. 166.

1. Maulvi Altaf Ahmed.
2. Babu Pratul Chandra Roy.
3. Babu Sachi Kanta Roy.
4. Babu Narendra Nath Sen Gupta.
5. Babu Priyabrata Sen.
6. Mr. Satish Chandra Bagchi.
7. Babu Jyotirindra Nath Bagchi.
8. Babu Naresh Chandra Chakravartti.
9. Babu Indu Bhushan Biswas.
10. Babu Nagendra Chandra Ganguli.
11. Babu Anukul Chandra Sannial.
12. Babu Ashutosh Das.

13. Babu Probodh Chandra De.
14. Babu Ramesh Chandra De.
15. Babu Dhirendra Nath Bagchi.
16. Babu Bishnurath Sen.
17. Babu Harendra Nath Banerjee.
18. Babu Manmatha Nath Ghatak.
19. Babu Gyanendra Mohan Haoladar.
20. Babu Tridib Chandra Banerjee.
21. Babu Ramapati Ghosh.
22. Babu Charu Chandra Basu.
23. Babu Brojendra Safan Sannial.
24. Maulvi Tofail Ali Khundker.
25. Babu Rabindra Kumar Basu.
26. Mr. Mazheruddin Ahmed.
27. Babu Bhabataran Mookerjee.
28. Babu Shailendra Nath Chatterjee.
29. Babu Narendra Nath De.
30. Babu Ramesh Chandra Sen Gupta.
31. Babu Satya Gopal Mukerjee.
32. Maulvi Shahabuddin Ahmed.
33. Lala Jogesh Chandra.

Dacoities in Bengal including Calcutta.

167. Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been a large increase in dacoities and serious crimes during the last few months?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to furnish figures showing the number of dacoities and serious crimes: (*i*) year by year during the last three years, and (*ii*) between January, 1922, and 31st May, 1922, with figures for the corresponding months of the previous years (the figures for Calcutta being given separately)?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) Dacoity and some other serious crimes have increased this year.

(*b*) Statements are laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 167, showing the number of reported cases of dacoities and serious crimes during the last three years.

IN BENGAL

Outside Calcutta.

Year	Murder.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Burglary. With theft.	Burglary. Without theft and attempt.	Theft.	Riot.
1919 ...	512	823	580	39,972	5,759	32,144	1,207
1920 ...	503	683	485	38,671	5,355	30,655	1,359
1921 ...	537	864	540	35,308	4,565	26,564	1,384

In Calcutta.

Year.	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery.	Burglary	Theft	Riot.
1919	29	3	45	1,334	5,962	23
1920	28	2	99	1,445	5,985	31
1921	26	4	149	1,460	6,276	51

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 167, showing the number of reported cases of serious crimes, other than dacoities in Bengal outside Calcutta, during the first quarters of the years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922.

Quarter ending 31st March.	Murder.	Robbery.	Burglary. With theft.	Burglary. Without theft and attempt.	Theft.	Riot.
1919	110	166	9,452	1,475	7,793	283
1920	112	128	9,630	1,368	8,312	330
1921	111	145	9,431	1,342	7,081	314
1922	134	180	8,372	1,001	6,130	458

NOTE.—Monthly figures up to May are not available.

STATEMENT OF SERIOUS CRIME IN CALCUTTA, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MAY.

	Murder.	Robbery.	Burglary.	Theft.	Riot.
1919	5	9	525	2,294	12
1920	14	27	654	2,368	11
1921	14	65	586	2,445	15
1922	9	53	724	2,428	18

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 167, showing number of dacoities reported.

IN BENGAL.

Outside Calcutta.

Month	1922.	1921.	1920	1919.
January	110	63	74	72
February	96	87	52	67
March	142	91	68	100
April	125	83	55	75
May	109	92	69	81
Total ...	582	416	318	395

In Calcutta.

January to May ...	3	1	1	3

Separation of Executive and Judicial functions.

168. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state when the report submitted by the committee formed by the

Government of Bengal to formulate a practical scheme for the separation of the Executive and Judicial functions will be published?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): The member is referred to the answer given to an unstarred question on the subject put at the meeting of the 3rd July, 1922, by Babu Jatindra Nath Basu.

Nawab Bahadur High School, Murshidabad.

169. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether there was a proposal to raise the Murshidabad Nawab Bahadur High School to the status of a Secondary College?

(*b*) If so, why has the proposal been held in abeyance?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of giving effect to the proposal? If so, when?

(*d*) What is the initial capital amount of the Muni Begum Endowment Fund which was made over to Government by the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, for maintaining, out of its interests, the above school and other religious and charitable institutions?

(*e*) What is the total amount of the accumulated capital of the fund at present?

(*f*) Is the amount of interest accruing from the accumulated capital sufficient to meet the non-recurring costs of equipment of a Secondary College as well as the recurring costs?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The proposal was carefully examined years ago and, having regard to the funds available, it was not considered practicable to establish and maintain a college in a district like Murshidabad where one college already exists.

(*c*) As at present advised Government do not propose to re-open the question.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) Details regarding the early history of the Muni Begum Deposit Fund are not available. This fund and others for the benefit of the Nawab Nazim and his family were amalgamated into a "Nizamat Deposit Fund." Subsequently in 1881 this fund ceased to exist and it was arranged that Government would give an annual grant of Rs. 30,000 to the Madrassa and High School which were later on amalgamated and are now known as the Nawab Bahadur's Institution.

Sittings of Standing Committee on Commerce.

170. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state

the number of sittings of the Commerce Standing Committee during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): One meeting of the Standing Committee was held during the year 1921-22. Under the rules for Standing Committees their functions are advisory and their proceedings confidential.

Sittings of Public Works Standing Committee.

171. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Public Works Standing Committee during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Standing Committee attached to the Public Works Department met on one occasion in 1921-22. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings confidential.

Sittings of Marine Standing Committee.

172. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Marine Standing Committee during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): Two meetings of the Standing Committee were held during the year 1921-22. Under the rules for Standing Committees their functions are advisory and their proceedings confidential.

Compounders.

173. Khan Bahadur Maulvi HAFIZAR RAHMAN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of compounders in the Presidency of Bengal?

(*b*) Are they paid entirely by the local bodies?

(*c*) Do the Government pay any contributions to the local bodies for the service done by these officers to Government servants?

(*d*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of contributing to the local bodies a portion of the pay of compounders?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Government do not maintain a list of compounders who are appointed by local authorities.

(*b*) Yes, except in Government institutions where compounders are paid from provincial revenues.

(*c*) No. Very few services are rendered by compounders to Government servants. Government, however, contribute to local fund hospitals and dispensaries for the medicines, etc., supplied from them to Government servants.

(*d*) No.

Professor of Midwifery in Calcutta Medical College.

174. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the actual number of hours of class teaching per week done by the Professor of Midwifery in the Calcutta Medical College;

(*ii*) the total number of hours of class teaching done by him during one calendar year;

(*iii*) the number of hours in the day the Professor has to devote to going round the wards or attending cases in the Eden Hospitals;

(*iv*) whether the Professor of Midwifery is assisted by a Resident Surgeon and a House Surgeon; and

(*v*) the salary the present occupant is drawing for his substantive post and what allowances are attached to the post besides the salary?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) The aggregate of 1½ hours' teaching every day except Sundays is nine hours per week. In addition 50 hours' lectures and 30 hours' clinical lectures.

(*ii*) Three hundred and fifty to four hundred hours at least.

(*iii*) Eight to 10-30 A.M. every day, *i.e.*, about 2½ hours daily and as much longer as is necessary.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) Pay of rank—Rs. 1,850 (including overseas pay). Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S. (23 years) and Rs. 250 teaching allowance.

Municipality at Munshiganj.

175. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there is a municipality at the headquarters of the Munshiganj subdivision?

(*b*) If so, what is the reason for the District Board of Dacca proposing to improve the subdivisional headquarters?

(*c*) If there is no municipality at the headquarters of the subdivision of Munshiganj, is the Hon'ble the Minister contemplating establishing one at an early date?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) This does not arise.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative. A union board has been established at Munshiganj in 1920. Under Chapter IV of the Village Self-Government Act this Board has powers to improve the sanitary condition of the locality.

Mr. Biss's report on primary education.

176. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the report on primary education by Mr Biss has been accepted by the Government and, if so, what steps the Government are taking to give effect to the said report?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Mr. Biss's report has neither been accepted nor rejected by Government. The Government, however, have taken a number of preliminary steps to come to a decision on the subject. The acceptance of the report depends on the co-operation of the local bodies who have to provide their share of expenditure by finding additional resources by moderate taxation as suggested in the report. For more than a year Government have been actively trying to induce almost all the local bodies to take up the scheme and offered them the Government share of the expenditure. It is to be regretted, however, that as yet the response from the local bodies has been anything but satisfactory. The Education Department has accepted the offer of every local body that was willing to take up the scheme on a half-and-half basis. Final Government orders have been passed in many cases. Some of the cases, however, are under examination in other Departments. A statement is laid on the table of the few local bodies that have accepted the scheme on a half-and-half basis with or without modifications. Soon after Mr. Biss submitted his report, Government

issued a preliminary resolution No. 1284 Edn., dated the 2nd July, 1921, in which they laid down certain provisional views and asked for criticisms and suggestions of the public with special reference to a number of points indicated in that resolution. Government regret to state that the response of the public did not suggest any real or widespread interest in the important subject. Although Government would take this opportunity of cordially acknowledging valuable criticisms and suggestions from a limited number of public men, with the exception of the British Indian Association, Government have not yet been favoured with the views of any other important public association. The report was circulated to all members of the Bengal Legislative Council, Bengal members of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State as also to all local bodies and the important public associations and the Press. The report was further translated into Bengali and widely circulated, amongst others, to the members of the Union Boards, Local Boards, etc. The response from these minor local bodies too has not been satisfactory. The report was also placed before the Education Standing Committee last year and some of the recommendations of the report were accepted by the committee. As most of the local bodies did not come forward to pay their fair share of the expenditure, Government propose to make certain offers this year as an experimental measure to half of the municipalities of the province, the terms of which would be substantially easier than those offered last year to many of the local bodies and they further propose to offer similar terms to about 75 Union Boards of the province. With this view certain provisions have been made in the supplementary budget which will be presented in this session and the terms will be made public when this budget is introduced. The problem being a varying one and the solution depending on the local conditions, the ability and the keenness of the local bodies, it is not possible for the Government at this stage to lay down a comprehensive policy on Mr. Biss's report. Government, however, propose to indicate their final decision in the matter as soon as a fairly large number of local bodies evince a real desire for the expansion of primary education on improved lines.

Statement showing list of schemes for Primary Education for which grants have been sanctioned, referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 176.

(1) Yusufpur Union (Rajshahi).
(2) Bhabakhali Union (Mymensingh).
(3) Digharkundi Union (Mymensingh).
(4) Sutrakhali Union (Mymensingh).
(5) Bhajanpur Union (Jalpaiguri).

(6) South Kharia Union (Jalpaiguri).

(7) Jhikargacha (Jessore).

(8) Rajbari Union (Faridpur).

(9) Basirhat Municipality.

(10) Cossipur-Chitpur Municipality.

(11) Nalchiti Municipality (Barisal).

(12) Benodepur Union (Noakhali).

(13) Narendra Union (Midnapore).

(14) Kasimpore Union (Malda).

(15) Indas, Patrasair, Sanbanda and Bikna Unions (Bankura).

(16) Bozratek Union (Malda).

(17) Bagnan Union (Howrah).

(18) Bagerhat, Raruli and Tala Unions (Khulna).

Plates and beddings for special class prisoners.

177. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that until very recently special class prisoners had to eat out of iron plates whereas European ordinary criminals in jails are allowed enamel plates?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the date when orders, if any, were passed allowing special class prisoners to have enamelled plates?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the prisoners have to pay for such plates?

(*d*) Are all the special class prisoners supplied with bedsteads, beddings, etc., like the European ordinary criminals in jail; if so, have the special class prisoners to pay for them?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) and (*c*) General orders for the supply of enamel plates as part of equipment of political prisoners were passed on the 7th June, 1922, but in some cases prisoners were allowed to use their own enamel plates and Government also provided them in some jails before that date.

(*d*) Yes; the special class prisoners are not required to pay for the bedsteads, etc., supplied to them.

Telegraph office at Balia-Kandi in Faridpur.

178. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is no *telegraph station* within a radius of ten miles or thereabouts of Balia-Kandi in Faridpur?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there is at that place a post-office, a thana, and a High English School, a rest house and also a charitable dispensary with several educated families in its vicinity?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps for the opening of a telegraph station at this place? If so, when will it be opened?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government has received no representation from this locality for the opening of a telegraphic office. The member is referred to the rules applicable to such cases in Chapter X, Volume II of the Telegraph Manual. Should suitable guarantors be forthcoming to indemnify Government against loss in the working of such an office, Government will be prepared to refer the application to the post and telegraph authorities for consideration.

Committee appointed by the Senate on the Minister's budget speech.

179. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education been drawn to the resolution passed in the Senate of the Calcutta University appointing a committee to draw up a statement on the points arising in connection with the speech delivered by the Hon'ble the Minister on the 1st March in the Council?

(*b*) Has the said committee submitted their statement which was due on the 13th April last?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Government has no official information but their attention has been drawn to the subject by this question. Inquiries have now been made and it has been ascertained that such a resolution has been passed.

(*b*) The Committee has submitted a report but the report has not been considered by the Senate.

(*c*) No copy can be placed on the table at this stage.

Connecting Tangail by railway.

180. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in detail, all available information with regard to the proposal to connect the town of Tangail by Railway with a suitable point in the existing rail-road leading to the district headquarters at Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The member is invited to refer to (*a*) the information under the heading "Mymensingh and Dacca District Railways" on page 82 of Volume II of the Administration Report on Railways in India for the year 1920-21; and (*b*) the report and estimates prepared by the Agent and Chief Engineer of the Tangi-Tangail-Jamalpur Railway 1917-18. The alignment of this line has been definitely accepted by the Railway Board.

A copy of each report referred to is placed on the Library table.

Venereal diseases in Calcutta.

181. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he is aware that venereal diseases are very prevalent among the people of Calcutta?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making special arrangements for the treatment of such diseases and of appointing doctors with special reputation as specialists in those diseases?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is already a Voluntary Venereal Hospital at Alipore and arrangements have also been made to treat such disease in out-patient wards attached to the Campbell and the Medical College Hospitals. Government do not propose at present to make any further special arrangements for this purpose.

Assistant [illegible]

182. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be

pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Assistant Surgeons who are—

(*i*) Hindus;

(*ii*) Muhammadans; and

(*iii*) Anglo-Indians?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state also how many of these Assistant Surgeons have been raised to the office of Civil Surgeons from each of the abovementioned three communities?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*) Total number of Civil Assistant Surgeons—164.

(*i*) Hindus	159
(*ii*) Muhammadans	5
(*iii*) Anglo-Indians	0
	164

Of these 12 Hindus have been raised to the office of Civil Surgeons, *viz.*, 7 permanently and 5 temporarily and one Muhammadan temporarily

Schemes on Council resolutions.

183. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a list of the schemes in the Department of Industries referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by the present Council with the approximate cost for each?

(*b*) Of these schemes, how many and which have been given effect to and the extent to which they have been given effect to?

(*c*) How many and which of these schemes have been held up for want of funds?

(*d*) How many and which of these schemes do the Government not propose to accept?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement supplying the information is laid on the table.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

List of schemes in the Department of Industries referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by this Council, referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 183.

Serial No.	Subject.	Mover.	Date.	Action taken.
1	Establishment of a Technological and Agricultural College in Calcutta, affiliated to Calcutta University.	Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.	4th April, 921	Government are already proceeding with the scheme for the establishment of a Technical School in Calcutta and an Agricultural Institute at Dacca and until these have started work, no effect can be given to the resolution.
2	Establishment of a Commercial School with a Museum attached in every division of Bengal	Babu Amulya Dhone Addy.	5th July, 1921	A scheme has been prepared for the establishment of two Commercial Schools during 1922-23, and necessary provision made in the supplementary estimates for July session. The ultimate cost of the two schools is estimated at Rs. 11,900 capital and Rs. 33,124 recurring
3	Construction of permanent buildings for Mainamati Survey School	Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.	13th July, 1921	A project for the construction of permanent buildings is under consideration. As the construction of permanent buildings will take time it has been decided to locate the school in temporary buildings in the meantime A sum of Rs 6,569 has been provided in the supplementary estimates for the July session for the construction of temporary buildings.
4	Grant of a dozen scholarships every year to deserving graduates and undergraduates of the universities of Calcutta and Dacca for Technical, Industrial and Agricultural training in foreign universities.	Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury.	14th July, 1921	Prior to the introduction of the Reforms four State Technical Scholarships were allotted to Bengal at one time. Steps are now being taken to continue this number from year to year. For this purpose provision has been made in the supplementary estimates for July session for the grant of two new Technical scholarships Full effect to the resolution cannot be given until the financial condition improves The cost of a scholarship is £200 *plus* £40 bonus a year and a second class passage to and from England at £64 or Rs. 1,000 for each journey.
5	Provincialisation of Pabna Technical school.	Khan Bahadur Wasimuddin Ahmed	2nd December, 1921.	It is proposed to give effect to the resolution from 1st August, 1922 Provision for this purpose has been made in the supplementary estimates for July session. Estimated cost Rs 12,800 per annum.
6	Establishment of an Industrial school with a workshop attached in every division of Bengal.	Babu Amulya Dhone Addy.	2nd December, 1921.	It is proposed to establish 5 Junior Technical schools with Industrial classes attached as funds permit. Two schools will be started during the current year and necessary provision has been made in the supplementary estimates for July session. Estimated cost per school is- Rs. Capital cost .. . 20,000 Recurring 21,000 Total 41,000
7	Raising the status of the Calcutta Commercial Institute to that of a Commercial College for higher commercial study up to Commercial degree.	Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.	23rd February, 1922.	Under consideration
8	Appointment of a mixed committee of official and non-official experts for investigation and report on the problem of unemployment of the educational middle class in Bengal.	Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.	30th March, 1922.	Under consideration.

Demands for Grants.

31.—Education (Transferred).

Motions for reduction.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I ought to remind members that we have got only 15 minutes at our disposal and that there are about 34 motions, on different questions, and I think that it would facilitate matters if the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter were to explain to the House anything in connection with these amendments, and most probably some of the members might think it proper to withdraw their amendments. So, I would ask the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter to say what he has to say with reference to item No. 197.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I think that we have got half an hour. We began at 3-30 P.M. yesterday and left at 5-30 P.M.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I rise to a point of order. This sort of questioning the President's version as to the time at our disposal is not dignified.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: There may be a mistake in calculation. I am not questioning the legality or the authority or the propriety of the Deputy-President's decision. I am entitled to point out that we began at 3-30 P.M. and that is my right. I am entitled to point out that we left at 5-30 P.M. and that is my right. I am entitled to say that we have taken only two hours and that half an hour is still left and that is my right. I am entitled to point out that possibly the Deputy-President is mistaken in his calculation.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: It was not 5-30 P.M. but 5-45 P.M. when we left off.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: If that is so, I am wrong.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: May I suggest that as each amendment is moved, I may explain in a minute or so, the point of view of the Government?

Owing to the absence of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 7,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 5' be refused."

The following motion, standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,115 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 6' for the appointment of a temporary Physical Adviser for Hygiene, be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 3,115 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 6" be refused.

This is a proposal for an annual increase of Rs. 5,340 for the maintenance of certain officers and offices with the idea of "systematising school and college athletics" whatever that may mean. We know all Government colleges and schools are provided with paid gymnastic masters and drill teachers. All the aided schools and colleges have to set apart in their budget, as a condition of the Government grant, a sum proportionate to their monthly expenses to be exclusively devoted for sports and games. On no account is this sum allowed to be encroached upon. In the private colleges and schools, the interference of a Physical Adviser will not be tolerated for a day, not to speak of two years. I fail to understand what is meant by calling this proposed "organiser for systematising school and college athletics," a Physical Adviser for the promotion of school and college hygiene. Is it expected that this organiser of athletics is also going to lecture on the science of hygiene to the students of 52 colleges and 500 high schools of the province? Somehow it appears that the present Government generally, and the transferred side in particular, are obsessed with the idea of peripatetic methods of treatment for all evils that boys' flesh is heir to.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Sir, there are only 15 minutes left and I suggest that speeches may be limited to a minute.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I think that the other motions will have to suffer, but I must have my time. If you do not want me to say anything, that is another matter. I wonder how this Government dignatory will manage to devote his precious moments snatched between travelling from trains to steamers and steamers to trains in imparting lessons in hygiene and athletics. I also wonder how the Principals and Head Masters will tolerate the interference with their ordinary serious work by such travelling advisers. I am strongly of opinion that the teaching of hygiene should be made compulsory in all the lower classes of all high schools and the work of organisation and systematising of athletics in colleges and schools should be entirely left with local committees, any undue interference from outside will only create fresh troubles and increase of correspondence and increase of clerks to carry on the correspondence and then Registrars to look after those clerks and so on and so on. I, therefore, oppose the demand.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Regard being had to the time at my disposal, I shall briefly explain to the House that this is nothing new. We used to spend about Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 8,000 before. Dr. Gray and Dr. Segard, as my friends here know, were Physical Advisers to the Government. They used to advise not merely the Government

schools but also private schools. The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea's college had the advantage of Dr. Segard's services. I was interested in the South Suburban School which also took advantage of his services. The idea is to help the students. For about two or three years during the war we had no such officer. My sanction is for an I.E.S. officer. I have got a young Bengali gentleman, who belongs to our service, and who went on his own initiative to England and underwent training in the Sheffield University in Anatomy and Physical Exercise. I am going to appoint him in the Bengal Educational Service at a much cheaper expense than we used to incur. I am sure that the Council will approve of it. I do not think that the subject is such that I need take much time. In a province where 71 per cent. of our population die before they are 30, 85 per cent. before they are 40, and 93 per cent. before they are 50, physical education is of the utmost importance.

The motion was then put and lost.

Owing to the absence of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,155 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 12' be refused."

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,155 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 12' for the revision of the pay of Mr. T. G. Barker, Head Master, Nawab Bahadur's Institution, Murshidabad, be reduced by Rs. 555."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 15,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 17" be refused.

This motion is a necessary corollary to my motion to refuse the demand for Rs. 3,115 for Scheme No. 6. Most of the secondary Government schools have got their play-grounds or playing-fields. In Calcutta these play-grounds are obtained by the respective school authorities from the Calcutta Corporation or from the maidan authorities. The Athletic Adviser, if appointed, would go in for acquisition of land, which would prove an impossibility in Calcutta and enormously costly in the mufassal. In the interior the Collectors of the districts always secure these fields as free gifts from the generous landowners. The Managing Committees can very well select these play-fields and the Inspectors, whose number is legion, can approach the respective Collectors and thus avoid the cost and delay of the process of acquisition. The money thus saved should go to make primary education free and compulsory in the villages.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: It is one of the great surprises in my life to find that my friend Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, who

is himself a medical man, should urge so strongly against the improvement of physical health of the students.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I protest against that. I have never said that.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The provision of Rs. 15,000 for numerous schools in the whole province, I consider to be utterly inadequate. I do not think that I need take up the time of the House by prolonging my remarks.

The motion was put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 6,250 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 18" for supply of sports material to schools, be refused.

I am surprised to find that the Hon'ble the Minister thought that I was against the improvement of the physical health of the students. It is not at all a correct interpretation of my speech.

I am afraid the framer of the remarks for the demand for "sports material" does not know much about the "remoter villages" about which he pleads. There are no villages near or remote where the boys are not keen about "football," etc. It appears that it is also not known to that writer that the Government-aided schools, without exception, have to set apart month after month in the acquittance roll of the school, a proportionate sum for the purchase of footballs and other equipments for games. These sums added to the monthly subscription of each boy attending the school and realised along with his school fee go to form an adequate sum with which these equipments are yearly bought and renewed. These organisations in the town and mufassal schools are working very satisfactorily and the Assistant Directors of Public Instruction, Divisional Inspectors, District Inspectors, Subdivisional Inspectors aided by the Sub-Inspectors have their eyes on these funds and they all scrutinise about their receipts and expenditure. I, therefore, move that this demand for Rs. 6,250 be refused, and I request the Minister to spend the sum on primary education.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I need not add anything to what I have said, excepting this that this sum of Rs. 6,250 is indeed a very small grant. At the present moment in the Government schools we supplement what the boys themselves pay in support of the games' fund by certain grants and I am providing for similar grants to private schools. I think that it is a move in the right direction.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I withdraw my motion that the demand of Rs. 85,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 19." for increased grants of schools, be refused.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 85,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Secondary—Scheme 19" for increased grants-in-aid to schools, be reduced by Rs. 50.

My motion is intended merely to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to certain facts which go rather against my own division of Chittagong; and I should like to ask him to be good enough to pay particular attention to that. In answer to a question of mine in this Council, I found that during the year 1920-21, out of 62 applications for recurring grants-in-aid coming from the Burdwan Division, 49 were granted; out of 36 applications from the Rajshahi Division, 20 were granted; out of 35 from the Presidency Division, 8 were granted; out of 25 applications from the Dacca Division, 13 were granted; and out of 34 applications from my poor Chittagong Dvision only one was granted, only one solitary school got the grant, and knowing that many schools of the Chittagong Division have suffered more than in any other division, may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the pitiful condition of the schools in my division, and hope that these schools may receive a good share of this grant-in-aid?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I am glad that my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has drawn my attention to the matter and I shall certainly look into it, but I am afraid it is not possible to answer the question off-hand. The Department always tries to deal with all applications fairly, but it does not necessarily follow from my remarks that the matter does not require to be looked into. These applications are ordinarily dealt with by divisional inspectors, but whatever may be the position, the department will look into the matter. If I find that Chttagong has not been fairly treated, I will take necessary action.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: In view of the promise made by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,00,000 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 20," be refused.

I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that, in the list of institutions, I do not find the name of a single Muhammadan institution. There are many Muhammadan girls' schools both in Calcutta and in the mufassal, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will please see that some of these institutions may come in for their share of aid.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: As regards the point mentioned by my friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, he is, perhaps, under a misapprehension. It is quite true that in the list of institutions there is not a single Muhammadan institution and this is due to the simple reason that there

is no college or secondary school for Muhammadan girls, but lower down he will find in the list a provision of Rs. 25,000 for middle schools and a provision of Rs. 30,038 for panchayati schools. These are provisions made for middle and panchayati schools which consist of both Muhammadan and Hindu schools. The Muhammadans will come in not only for their share of this grant, but regard being had to the backward condition of girls' education in their community, they will come in for more than their ordinary share.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 under head "31.—Education—Advancement of Female Education of Bengal—Scheme 20," be reduced by the sum of Rs. 2,700 budgeted against "Social Service League."

I am sorry to find myself confronted with the fact that the question of Social Service League has become mixed up with the question of advancement of female education in Bengal. I am in an unfortunate position as I happen to be on the working committee of this League. Its office is situated in Calcutta, and I am told that this League is going to open a girls' school at Mymensingh, one of the remotest districts of Bengal. The place where it is proposed to open the school is in a subdivision which boasts of at least one primary school in each village. The case appears to me to be similar to that of ruling Lower Bengal from Simla. The District Board has got its Assistant Inspector of Schools, the subdivisions have got Deputy Inspectors and each thana has got its peripatetic Sub-Inspector. If any school deserves any encouragement, the Assistant Inspectress of Schools on the spot has only to recommend for a special Government grant, but I fail to see how the Social Service League, with its headquarters in Calcutta and with ourselves as their working members, will help in the matter. I am afraid most of this sum is bound to be swallowed up by travelling and other expenses. The Social Service League has a distinct function——

[At this stage, the time allotted for the discussion of this head having expired, the member was not allowed to proceed further.]

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 1,00,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 20,' be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motions were then put separately and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 1,55,000 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 21,' for school buildings in union boards, be refused."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Rs. 1,55,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 21,' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 47,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 22,' be refused."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 47,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 22,' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 23,' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Rs. 15,000 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 24,' be reduced by Rs. 100.'

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 4,200 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 27,' for four posts of subdivisional inspectors of schools, be refused."

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 30,000 under head '31.—Education—General Scholarships—Scheme 30,' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 100 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 31,' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for a sum of Rs. 945 for female teachers' house-to-house visitation under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Miscellaneous—Scheme 32,' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for a sum of Rs. 4,000 for grant to the Student Welfare Committee under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Miscellaneous—Scheme 33,' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for a sum of Rs. 3,800 for instruction on hygiene under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 34,' be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '31.—Education (Transferred),' be refused."

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 8,47,643 under head '31.—Education (Transferred),' be reduced by Rs. 4,200."

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: Would it not be better if you put the whole page at once instead of putting the motions one by one? That would save a lot of time of the Council. (Laughter.)

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 8,47,643 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Transferred)" was then put and agreed to.

32.—Medical.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move that a sum of Rs. 3,08,127 be granted for expenditure under head "32.—Medical."

It is not necessary for me to refer to the various points that have been mentioned in the Statement that is before us. In replying to the amendments that will be placed before the House, I may have to deal with them, but, Sir, I desire, in this connection, to refer to a matter which is not exactly covered by this supplementary demand for grants but which is very pertinent to, the questions that are before us.

I desire to explain to the House the policy of Government in regard to two medical schools which find no place in the demand for grants. The policy of Government is this: Government have approved of the erection of a Medical School at Chittagong as already promised by me. This will be proceeded with next year after Mymensingh. Mymensingh will be taken this year. If the financial position justifies it, Chittagong will be taken next year. It is impossible to give a definite promise as regards the actual date, but I am personally very hopeful that the funds at my disposal will be sufficient to enable the school at Chittagong to be proceeded with next year. I desire to make this statement in order to remove any misapprehension that may exist in regard to this matter in the absence of any statement from me.

With these remarks, I move that a sum of Rs. 3,08,127 be granted for expenditure under head "32.—Medical."

Motions for reductions.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,500 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 4," be refused.

I rise with a good deal of hesitation to move the motion for refusal of the demand for grant to the Eden Sanitarium at Darjeeling. It is an institution of undoubted public utility and one cannot help such institutions too liberally. Then what is the reason why I, a medical man, has put forward this motion for refusal of the grant? Is it because this sanitarium is a European institution? I say—"Certainly not." I deprecate racial hatred and racial bias from an Indian towards a European with as much vehemence as I condemn such a tendency from a European towards an Indian. I want reciprocal fair play and justice between man and man, irrespective of white, brown or black.

I am aware of the fact that the Eden Sanitarium has been founded by private endowments and is largely maintained from the same source. I do not wish to criticise the wisdom or the spirit of toleration and breadth of view of the founders of the institution who have thought it desirable to extend their charity and help to one particular class of human beings to the exclusion of others. Your house is your castle, admit whomsoever you like, exclude whomsoever you wish. But I maintain, Sir, one cannot extend this principle to a public or quasi-public and Government institution and exclude one community therefrom without causing misunderstanding and bad blood. Look at the example of the Presidency General Hospital in Calcutta. The doors of this institution were open only to Europeans and those classed as Europeans in the peculiar nomenclature of Government which included Anglo-Indians, Eurasians, Jews and Armenians. All Indians, irrespective of their social or educational status, were excluded. A past member of this Legislative Council, who is now a member of the Legislative Assembly, brother of a High Court Judge, son-in-law of a Minister of Government and himself a member of the Bar—a barrister commanding a large practice—one day by mistake partook of some poisoned food. He applied to the Presidency General Hospital for relief and, in spite of all he could do to press the urgency of his case, he was not attended to and was sent back by the Emergency Officer. A child of a present member of this Council was suddenly taken ill at night and after trying in vain to get a doctor at that hour of the night the little patient was taken to the Presidency General Hospital. Admission was refused. The mother, an English lady, vehemently protested against this heartless treatment and stubbornly refused to take her child away. What was the result? It was a tragedy, the child died of convulsions and hyper-prexia. I have given you only two examples of the serious consequences of such rigid rules based on racial prejudice and distinction obtaining in humanitarian institutions and hospitals. The Eden Sanitarium is not a convalescent Home for Europeans; it is nothing but a European Hospital for the town of Darjeeling. Is not the Civil Surgeon of Darjeeling the Superintendent of the Sanitarium? Is not a Government Assistant Surgeon, the House Surgeon? Are not the Clewer Sisters from the Canning Home, in charge of the nursing arrangements there? It is indeed a little replica of the Presidency General Hospital of Calcutta and it is for this reason that I oppose the demand unless racial distinction is abolished from this institution. Suppose, if a person like Mr. S. R. Das, the Advocate-General of Bengal, thoroughly English in every way, is in need of admission into the Eden Sanitarium, he will certainly be refused admission because the rules are rigid. Apart from utilising public servants in their management and administration, the authorities of the Eden Sanitarium have now come forward for a grant from public revenue to be voted by the members of this Council, the representatives of the people of Bengal—those people who, in their

hour of need, are excluded from that institution! Have we lost all self-respect that we should vote money for an institution where such racial distinction and racial inequality prevails? I am perfectly certain that every non-official member of the House, European and Indian, will support me and refuse this demand unless this racial distinction is abolished from the Eden Sanitarium. If this principle cannot be acted upon, then recall the Right Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri from his tour in the Dominions and cease agitating for equal rights for Indians in Kenya and other British South African Colonies and dissolve the Racial Distinctions Committee. I believe the reserved areas are in the charge of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan. The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan is the recognised leader alike of the people and the landed aristocracy of this country; his towering personality is a source of strength not only to Government but also to us. I am perfectly certain he will give this matter his personal attention and see that colour is no bar in the reserved areas which are now under his charge.

With these words, I move the motion standing in my name that the grant to the Eden Sanitarium at Darjeeling be refused.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I cannot usefully add anything to what Dr. Suhrawardy has said.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I doubt whether the grant to the Eden Sanitarium can come under—grants to hospitals and dispensaries—as it is neither a hospital nor a dispensary. It is only an exclusive boarding house for convalescent Europeans and Anglo-Indians, where the charge per head is below the actual cost, the deficit being met from the endowment supplemented by the tea planters of the district as well as all the European firms in Calcutta who send their assistants to the hills. The racial distinction and exclusiveness is very pronounced and offensive in this institute. The Anglo-Indian Calcutta merchants and the tea planters, though anxious to keep up the cordon of racial hatred round this boarding house, evidently are not willing to bear their fair share, but anxious to take tax-payers' money, for this kind of endowed and exclusive institution. While in this connection, I have to remind the Council that the Lowis Jubilee Sanatorium—an institution open to Indians of all nationalities without any distinction of caste and creed—is not in the receipt of any help or subscription from the Governmental purse. In the face of this racial inequity, it would be the height of impolicy to help an institution like this. This grant, moreover, cannot come under the major head "Medical," which has only six sub-heads, *viz*:—(1) Medical establishment, (2) Hospitals and dispensaries, (3) Grants for medical purpose, (4) Medical Colleges and schools, (5) Lunatic Asylums, and (6) Chemical Examiner. The demand for this glorified rest house can come under none of these six. In any case, a special establishment for the benefit of a particular

class maintained by a particular community to give effect to racial prejudice should not be assisted from the tax-payers' general fund.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 6,500 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 4,' be reduced by Rs. 1,500."

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am sorry that my friend Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, for whom I have a genuine regard and esteem, should have brought in this question in a spirit from which the racial aspect could not entirely be obliterated, and, in consequence, he has not been able, although he started his speech by saying that he moved it in no spirit of racial antagonism, to avoid the racial question. Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur has, however, taken a different line, but before I turn to the Rai Bahadur I should like to explain generally what the position regarding the Eden Sanitarium is.

The Eden Sanitarium, it is true, was started as a memorial to Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for his services to the Darjeeling hills. Among the contributors to that sanitarium was my predecessor, the late Maharajadhiraja Aftab Chand Mahtab Bahadur and when this sanitarium was started, it is equally true, that the racial question was not thought of. Later on, the Indian communities considered that in the salubrious climate of Darjeeling they would like to have a sanitarium of their own, and this was originally started by an Englishman, who was held in high esteem and who was then the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, the late Mr. Lowis. Now the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium, as Raja Maniloll Singh Roy will probably bear me out, caters for the Indian public generally, and if the epitaph "a glorified rest house" could be at all applied to an institution, it could be more fittingly applied to certain sections of the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium than to the Eden Sanitarium. But the main point that we have got to consider is not to take the Eden Sanitarium in the same light as the Presidency General Hospital for the two things are really very different. It is true that the Eden Sanitarium is not like an ordinary hospital, but nevertheless, it is a hospital and it is essentially a hospital. If, as Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur has been informed, certain convalescent Europeans have been staying in this place as paying guests, it only shows that they did so because the pressing needs for the maintenance of the Eden Sanitarium were such that those public-spirited Europeans to assist the finances of the Eden Sanitarium did that, and not because that is the general practice, and further a change has been made since 1920, since when the rules have been made more rigid regarding its being utilised as a hospital generally.

Now coming to the racial questions, first of all I am sorry that my friend Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy mentioned such irrelevant matters as the

Presidency General Hospital with regard to the Eden Sanitarium because, as I have said, the two really stand on a very different footing. It may be true that the Eden Sanitarium caters only for the European population in Darjeeling, and that may be a matter for regret to some. But may I ask my friend why is it that before he asks this racial question or what he considers a racial question to be removed from here, that he does not move the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium authorities to make it possible for Europeans, who go to the Eden Sanitarium, to go to the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium also? "What's sauce for the goose must also be sauce for the gander."

But apart from that, there is another aspect which must not be forgotten. Why is it that the Indian, who has adopted European habits, does not first of all see that the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium caters for his section of the Indian public too? Why should he be anxious, because he has adopted European habits, to always hobnob with Europeans in European hospitals, apart from the racial question. As regards the racial question, I may say that there is really no racial question in the Eden Sanitarium; it is true that in practice no Indians have been taken in, but I say that the moment the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium were to admit Europeans and make it possible for Europeans to go there, then it would be time enough to ask for the same concession in the Eden Sanitarium for Indians. Everybody who goes up to Darjeeling thinks that it would not be dignified if he did not live in European style in Darjeeling where things are probably cheaper to live in European style. But that is not the point, the point is why should Indians, who have adopted European habits, first of all press to go to European institutions and say, "you must turn out the inmates to make room for us; we have adopted European habits, you must cater for us." Why should they not go to the Indian institutions and say, "you must cater for us according to our requirements in the same way as you are catering for our orthodox brethren—we have adopted European habits." Then having catered also for Europeans in the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium, it would be time to ask the Eden Sanitarium to remove the bar. I shall now just read out a little extract from what the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling has said regarding the question of the Eden Sanitarium. He says:—"The Civil Surgeon has taken the opinion of the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium authorities on the question of admitting Indians into the Eden Sanitarium, and they are opposed to the suggestion. If the Eden Sanitarium is opened to Indians, the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium would be ruined"; so it will be evident that the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium authorities do not want the change.

Then coming to the racial question he says, that "the medical authorities of the Sanitarium would, in a case of emergency, not refuse admission to an Indian patient." That shows there is really no bar, although, in practice, for the sake of both Indians and Europeans in

Darjeeling, I, as an Indian, would strongly recommend that it would be much better to leave things as they are for the present at any rate.

As regards this grant, it has been said that no money should be given to a charitable institution of this kind; in that case to-morrow it might be said that we must starve European education entirely. I am sure that Indians are not so mean or narrow-minded as to deprive this institution which has so far been maintaining itself, but is badly in need of money at present, otherwise, they would not have come to Government for assistance. For these reasons, I hope the members, who have wished to reduce this grant, will withdraw their motions.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: After having heard from the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur that there is no bar to the admission of Indians to the Eden Sanitarium——

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: In cases of emergency.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: Yes, in cases of emergency, at present and I am hoping the Hon'ble Member will see that in future this concession is granted in ordinary cases also, as has been done in the Presidency General Hospital, in Calcutta, by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banarjea, who has passed orders removing the colour bar, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,200 for the salary of the pathologist under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 7," be refused.

The main reason for the refusal of the demand for the salary of the post of pathologist in the Presidency General Hospital is based on the fact that it has been the custom for the Surgeon-General with the the Government of Bengal from the beginning of the introduction of the Reforms, to put before the Standing Committee proposals of this nature for discussion with the Hon'ble Minister, as President, the Surgeon-General and the Secretary in charge of the Medical Department, as Government members. This particular item is an addition to the ordinary cadre of the Presidency General Hospital and it ought to have been discussed and the non-official views of it submitted before the Hon'ble Minister who would have then considered whether it was practical or not from the Government point of view to adopt them and in that case there would have been no necessity for me to move this motion. But since this has not been done, and thought necessary by General Deare it has become necessary for me to move this and other motions regarding other items which had not come before the Standing Committee for discussion. The Standing Committee is a

body, elected by the non-official members of this House as their representatives, and we have got a duty by the House, as this House has got a duty by its constituencies, to know how and why public money is going to be spent, and why the cadre of a service is increased or reduced, specially as we now find that a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed to inspect every item of expenditure. Since we find that this additional expenditure is going to be incurred, naturally we wish to know the reason, and since we have not been consulted, I move that the post of the pathologist be deleted, because in my opinion the anæothetist is quite competent to carry out the duties of a pathologist, his duties being only to administer anæsthetics to patients going to be operated upon in the morning, a duty which has hitherto been performed by one of the House Surgeons in the Presidency General Hospital. If he is given opportunities of learning the work of a pathologist also we get a man who, when transferred to a mufassal hospital, will be very useful with his double experience of pathologist and anæsthetist, and combining efficiency with economy.

SURGEON-GENERAL with the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL (Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Wilson): I have heard with interest what my colleague and friend Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy has said with regard to the omission of my predecessor in office. I am sorry the Standing Committee were not consulted on the matter.

With regard to the proposal, which is now before the House, I wish very strongly to support it, as I know from personal experience that there is absolute necessity for this post. The question has arisen as to whether it is absolutely essential that we should have a separate appointment of a pathologist or whether we could not expect another officer to do this work in addition to his own duties. The services of a pathologist to a hospital should be a whole-time appointment as his work in this institution is of vital importance. The question of Pathology is closely associated with the advances of medical science, and it is necessary for a pathologist to be a man with special and expert knowledge of the particular work. It would be impossible in my opinion to expect a House Surgeon or a House Physician to take up this special work in addition to his own duties nor would he be sufficiently trained in it. We must have an expert who has had special training. The Surgeon-Superintendent of the Presidency General Hospital has also pointed out the necessity for the appointment to the institution of an X-Ray Specialist. Recently, due to the generosity of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, the Presidency General Hospital has been equipped with an up-to-date X-Ray apparatus and if no expert is appointed to carry out the work in connection with X-Ray examination of patients in the hospital the patients will lose the advantages and the apparatus will deteriorate and lose in its value. Up to date the staff of the hospital have not been able to obtain the full value

from its equipment because they have not had a whole-time officer to carry out the duties. The work requiries an expert officer and one who has had the necessary training in Radiology. I should say the ordinary medical practitioner is not qualified to conduct this kind of examination. These appointments for this important institution have been pending since 1913, but owing to financial stringency and to the demands for medical officers for war requirements, they could not be provided for. For the reasons stated, I strongly support the grants asked for.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I wish just to add one word to what has been said by Colonel Wilson. This is a small item. It seems to me that Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy's complaint is that this matter was not laid before the Standing Committee and discussed by them. This was not done in this case, and I consider that it is perhaps a grievance. I am free to admit it. But the matter being so small, I hope my friend will withdraw his motion.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: After what I have heard from the Hon'ble Minister and the Surgeon-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson I withdraw this motion and others for the refusal of the demand for grants, which were based on the fact that Surgeon-General Deare did not place them for discussion before the Standing Committee and thus acted against the principle and practice recognised by his predecessors.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was also, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 690 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 11" be reduced by Rs. 90."

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: I think Government has already taken action with regard to this matter, *viz.*, that the House-Surgeon of the Howrah General Hospital should be a Civil Assistant Surgeon. I therefore do not press my next motion.

It was as follows:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,600 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 15,' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 1,800 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 15" be refused.

Some time ago, I elicited from the Hon'ble Minister in charge how both the initial qualification, the quality of teaching as well as the period of study for the Civil Assistant Surgeons were of much higher order

than those of the Military Medical students who are recruited with a special eye for the requirements of exclusively military work. I fail to understand how the Hon'ble Minister——

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. S. W. Goode): I rise to a point of order. I might shorten the discussion if I informed Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur that Government had already decided that we should recommend to the Government of India that the reservation of these posts to the Military Assistant Surgeons should cease.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In that case, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 1,800 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 15' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 19" be reduced by Rs. 25,000.

I do not object to the principle of the grant. My reason for objecting to the demand is that provision should first of all be made for the maintenance of some thana dispensaries by the District Boards with special loans taken from Government. The whole sum mentioned in this grant will, I think, not be necessary this year. There are several district sadar dispensaries in need of special help from Government and a portion of this grant may very well be utilised for that purpose, say about Rs. 10,000; that will be sufficient at least for this year. It is in this view that I move that the demand be reduced by half.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: The need of dispensaries in the mufassal is very great and we would have been glad if a higher sum could have been provided in this supplementary budget for giving aid to local bodies to open up new dispensaries. Many of the members would have been glad to vote for it if a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 were demanded for this purpose instead of this paltry sum. I come from Dinajpur, the area of which district is 4,000 square miles and I would have been glad if you could have opened 40 dispensaries there. We can utilise the whole sum, I mean to say, one district can utilise the whole sum if it is given to-day. The sum as given here is very small and I am astonished that my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri is going to curtail it. If the motion is carried and this paltry sum is curtailed, then many of us would be put to great difficulty. I therefore, hope the House will refuse giving its support to Kishori Babu's motion and pass the original demand of Rs. 50,000.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I must express my unqualified surprise at the motion of my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri who is always such a stout champion of medical aid for the rural areas. My friend will remember—I think his memory will carry him back to last year—that a resolution was passed in this Council against the views of Government in favour of the establishment of a dispensary in each thana, and when we try to give effect to it—it was against our views—we loyally accepted the resolution and circularised the District Boards—when we try to give effect to the resolution of the House, my friend comes forward with a motion to reduce the grant.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble Minister of opinion that the whole of this sum will be spent this year? If this is so, I do not object.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: As much of it as we can. I cannot make a promise. I cannot say the whole of it will be spent. It will very largely depend upon the District Boards. If they can make the necessary arrangements, the sum will be spent.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: If it is likely to be spent, I do not object; I withdraw my motion.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I am afraid my friends is in league with the Finance Department.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,00,000 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 20" be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

Here, also, I think that the whole sum is not likely to be spent this year. It is in this view that I move this motion. I see that the amount is to be utilised for giving grants to some other dispensaries. If there is any chance that the whole sum will be spent this year, I am quite willing to withdraw the motion.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: How can I give an assurance which does not lie within my power? It is for the district boards; if they like, the whole amount may be spent. It all depends upon the progress of their work.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I want to know whether there is any chance of the whole amount being spent this year.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I cannot say and I decline to answer that question. I cannot dwell upon chances.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not like to stand in the way of this expenditure and, therefore, withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The member being absent, the following motion was deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 22' be refused."

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I move that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 22," for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses Institution, be reduced by Rs. 25,000.

This is a grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Association, and I, as a citizen of Calcutta, should not object to it, but I think that we should do justice not only to Calcutta but also to the mufassal area. It appears that under Scheme 20 for the extension of medical relief in rural areas, only a lakh of rupees has been provided. This is in accordance with the resolution passed by this Council. This Council resolved that adequate medical relief should be accorded to the rural areas, and proposed to make some contribution to 400 dispensaries in the mufassal area. May I ask whether a sum of one lakh is sufficient for the maintenance of 400 dispensaries in the mufassal area?

Mr. S. W. COODE: May I point out that the member is still discussing the question of rural dispensaries. The motions under that head have been withdrawn.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: My contention is that it is not fair or consistent to make an additional contribution of Rs. 50,000 to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution, having regard to the fact that only a lakh of rupees has been sanctioned for medical relief in the rural areas. It appears that the expenditure of the institution has greatly increased in recent years, whereas there has been little alteration in the Government contribution which is fixed at Rs. 75,000 a year. It is now proposed to increase this by Rs. 50,000. This institution applied to the Calcutta Corporation for a grant and got Rs. 20,000. They again applied for an additional grant of Rs. 10,000. I may say that the Calcutta Corporation went into the details and rejected it; we are not informed of the number of nurses, their salaries and allowances, and what increments of salaries and allowances are going to be given. I beg to suggest that an additional grant of Rs. 25,000 may be sanctioned, or that the total grant to this Nurses' Institution may be one lakh of rupees, specially in view of the fact that only a lakh of rupees has been given for medical relief in the rural areas throughout the whole province of Bengal.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 22' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: I wish to say just a few words to give certain information to my friend Babu Amulya Dhone Addy. This question was very thoroughly gone into by the Standing Committee where all the three medical members—the representatives of this Council—agreed that a sum of Rs. 50,000 should be contributed towards the general nursing fund. Babu Amulya Dhone Addy will be pleased to hear that by giving Rs. 50,000 we are going to get a value of Rs. 1,75,000 worth of work from these nurses. The Medical College Hospital group—the Medical College, the Eden Hospital, the Prince of Wales Hospital, the Ezra Hospital, the Eye Infirmary, and the paying blocks—get the benefit of the services of the nurses of this institution the maintenance of which costs Rs. 1,75,000. If we do not contribute this Rs. 50,000 they would withhold the services of these nurses, with the result that public revenue will have to find the money for the payment of these nurses because we cannot neglect this most important group of hospitals for our Indian patients. Now is it not a sound business proposal that we should give Rs. 50,000 to get Rs. 1,75,000 in return? I hope Babu Amulya Dhone Addy who is a shrewd business man, will see the reasonableness of the demand and withdraw his motion for refusal.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I think it is my duty to stand on this occasion to give my support to the Hospital Nurses' Institution and oppose my friend's motion.

Several years ago, when I was connected with the Hospital Nurses' Institution Governing Board, I had occasion to find that the work that had been done by these nurses was extremely desirable, and that work has been improving from year to year. We feel the necessity of these nurses in the city of Calcutta so much, that I think it would be ridiculous for anybody to decry that body. But I find that some of the members of this Council are prejudiced against the institution because they think that the entire work of these nurses is devoted to the European side; I can assure my friends that this is not a correct view. I have a paper in my hand from which I find that 49 per cent. of the patients nursed by these nurses are Indians, and it is within our knowledge that almost all the important hospitals for Indians in Calcutta cannot do without the services of these nurses. I sincerely wish that the day will not be far distant when every hospital in Calcutta will be able to avail themselves to the services of these nurses.

I would like to ask my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, to consider how these nurses hazard their lives by the bedside of patients stricken with cholera, plague and other infectious diseases. Is it proper for us to decry them? As a medical man, I fully realise the dangers of nursing. These ladies who come forward to take up the profession of nursing certainly deserve our sympathetic consideration.

I do admit, Sir, that it would be much better if we had had a large number of Indian ladies forthcoming to take up this profession. I have

been trying my best to induce a number of them to come and join this profession, but those of us who have been working on these lines realise how difficult it is to get suitable Indian ladies to embrace the profession. This is a condition of things for which we are sorry—it is almost a matter for reproach to our community—and I hope that in two or three years, we shall be able to recruit an adequate number of Indian ladies as nurses. Then, I believe, the prejudice which is now lying in the minds of some of my friends will vanish. So let us support this proposal unanimously, for the nurses are doing a lot of good for us and they deserve our sympathy.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: There remains but little for me to add to what has already been said in support of the grant which has been put in the demand by Government. But I want to mention two facts in this connection, which, perhaps, are not known to the Council. In the first place, we have appointed a committee for the purpose of going into the accounts and the financial position of this institution. The institution is suffering from financial difficulties, and these difficulties are growing from year to year. Government usually make a grant of Rs. 75,000 a year. This year, the grant had to be raised to Rs. 1,25,000 in consequence of these difficulties. It was pointed out by the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr that this was a very unsatisfactory state of things, and that the whole matter should be thoroughly gone into, and a committee has accordingly been appointed by Government in this connection. I hope that, as a result of the labours of the committee, some way will be found out of the ever-recurring difficulties which confront the institution.

The next point to which I desire to call attention is that a considerable body of opinion exists in this Council, and, I believe, also in the press to the effect that means should be found for the training of Indian women of the respectable classes as nurses. With this view we have appointed a committee which is to recommend to Government measures for attracting to the profession of nursing respectable Bengali ladies, and also for making suitable arrangements for the training of Indian *dhais*. My friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, has referred to the need of nurses in the mufassal, and I think the labours of the committee might help us in meeting this want. I hope, having regard to the opinion which has been expressed here, and to the action which the Government have taken in this matter, my friend will see his way to withdraw his motion.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: After what I have heard from the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the House, withdrawn:—

The following motions, standing in the name of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,600 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 26' be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 2,500 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 29' be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 600 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 30' be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 550 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 35' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 550 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 35" be refused.

The prevailing idea working in the mind of the Hon'ble Minister appears to be that the Military Assistants are more efficient, and their work more arduous than the Civil Assistant Surgeons. If that be his decided opinion, he should at once empty out the classes of the Medical College of the regular students and establish shorter course preceded by a smattering of general education and thus create a class of "arduous" and "efficient" class of medical men to his taste. I believe it is known to the Council that European lunatics are not kept in the Berhampore Lunatic Asylum, but they are sent to the European Asylum at Kanke near Ranchi. Physical force is not the only thing that is required in the management of a lunatic asylum, and has the Hon'ble Minister any reason to conclude that the members of the Civil Assistant Surgeons are physically less fit without exception to the less educated and less trained Military Assistants whom he suggests to take up?

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. WILSON: I rise to support the demand for the increase of allowance to the Deputy Superintendent of the Mental Hospital at Berhampore. The officer who now holds this appointment is a Military Assistant Surgeon of considerable length of service and he happens to be in what is not considered a very popular appointment. The work in connection with Mental Hospitals cannot be considered very popular and it is difficult to get men of the right type and necessary experience to continue in the appointment for any length of time. The complaint and grievance of this officer is that if he were employed at one of the Presidency Hospitals or in other appointments in which officers of his service are usually posted he would be in a position to draw an increased allowance in addition to his grade pay, he would draw his salary *plus* a certain allowance according to his length of service. The pay of this appointment was fixed by Government in 1908 and the allowance in addition to the grade pay was Rs. 50 to Rs. 150, the maximum being reached after 16 years. Military Assistant Surgeons who are appointed to various hospitals in Calcutta draw the maximum time-scale of allowance after a period of five years, and this officer occupied one of those appointments before he went to

the war. Since his return and appointment to his present post, he finds himself in an unenviable position where his emoluments are less than those of his colleagues with shorter service and more congenial work, amidst pleasanter surroundings. On these grounds, Sir, I strongly support the proposal to bring this officer's allowance up to the uniform scale which is drawn by other officers of his service, and thus remove the discontent and hardship from which the Deputy Superintendent is now suffering.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion, standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for expenditure under head '32.—Medical' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 3,08,127 be granted for expenditure under head "32.—Medical" was put and agreed to.

33.—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move that a sum of Rs. 3,99,919 be granted for expenditure under head "33.—Public Health."

Motions for reductions.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,500 under head "33.—Public Health—Establishment contingencies—Scheme 3" being a provision for Publicity Bureau, be refused.

The demand is for the purpose of giving more pay to the officer said to be doing propaganda work in the mufassal. He is now getting Rs. 300 a month, *plus* travelling allowances, I am sure; but he is doing nothing, or very little. Sometimes, the district officers call a public meeting to witness what this officer has to show and people congregate, but the officer does not turn up. There is something slack in the mainspring, and that should be attended to and then any demand should be made. I, therefore, propose the refusal of the demand.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Perhaps it is only widely known that the lecturer round whom so much glory moves is not qualified to say a word on Public Health. He is not a D. P. H.—nor even a medical man—but an ordinary M. A. He goes to a place, delivers a stamp lecture and as we learn from the telegrams from place to place, he gathers a few boys, who undertake to reserve tanks and watch from day to day to keep the tanks free from pollution. The Council is now asked to give him the sum of Rs. 2,500 to distribute among the boy volunteers of health, another additional Rs. 1,000 to his fat travelling

allowance already granted, another assistant lecturer less qualified, of course, than himself at Rs. 200 a month and two travelling assistants at Rs. 50 a month each bringing the cost for the rest of the year to Rs. 6,500 and binding down the Council permanently to an annual increase of expenditure of Rs. 11,500. Over and above the Civil Surgeon, we have in every district one District Health Officer—who is constantly touring round the villages—he is moreover a qualified medical man with a Public Health Diploma. In each division, there is one Assistant Director of Public Health who is also on the constant move as the large amount drawn as travelling allowance would show. These officers who are constantly travelling among the people, and who are in a manner far better known and respected by the villagers, are in a better position to instruct the rural public in the principles of health and sanitation than members of the present organisation. So I beg to oppose the demand for the grant.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I am sorry that I cannot support the motions of either Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur or of Raja Maniloll Singh Roy. If I remember aright, it was in October, 1920, the Public Health Department launched propaganda work by means of cinematograph shows, and district towns were visited by the Publicity Officer and lectures were delivered by him in Hindi, Bengali and Urdu. I may tell my friends that the present officer, who is in charge of this Department of Public Health, knows and can speak well in many languages; and for man who can authoritatively speak to lay audience, a knowledge in four languages is, I should think, a great asset; and the Government ought to enhance the pay and emoluments of this particular officer rather than reduce his emoluments. I myself had been a visitor to one of these shows during the Faridpur Exhibition and I can testify to the good work that was being done. Later on, on financial grounds, the cinematograph shows were discontinued and magic lantern shows were substituted. These visual representations, if properly conducted, leave an indelible effect on the mind of the masses. Instruction and amusement go hand in hand. The press and the public have, with one accord, praised the work of this branch of the Public Health Department.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: What is the name of this gentleman?

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I do not know his name.

Mr. S. W. GOODE: Mr. K. P. Roy.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: The press and the public have so far taken a very keen interest in the propaganda work of this department. There was a resolution in my name which proposed that instead

of curtailing the expenditure on the Publicity Department, the department should be made a permanent one with enhanced emoluments, because I am fully convinced that in order to educate the lay public on medical and scientific matters, lectures and lantern demonstrations are essential. I am therefore surprised to find that my friend, who is a distinguished medical man, should oppose this grant. I have in my hand a book which is written by Sir George Newman, the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health in London. I shall not take up the time of the Council by reading out from this book, but I may hand over this book to Dr. Dutt. If he reads this book, he will understand the value of these propaganda lectures in foreign countries. Every country nowadays has got this branch of education. It does not matter who the particular person is who adorns this department; but the question is that the Publicity Departments should be strengthened and more and more lecturers should be found to give lectures to the lay public on medical and sanitary matters.

With these observations, I oppose the motions.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I find that in this matter two medical men widely differ from one another. When doctors differ, we, laymen, are quite at sea, and do not know what to do. We do not propose to cut out for ourselves an independent line of action. My friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was pleased to say that he knew nothing at all about the work of the Publicity Officer. I think that was the observation he made. Well, Sir, it is my pleasure and delight to read the Publicity Officer's report every month—his report regarding the tours he makes, and the work he does during those tours. I may ask Dr. Dutt to read some of his reports. If I may be permitted, I will send some of them on to him, and I am quite sure that he will be convinced of the hard, useful and strenuous work which he is doing. It may be asked—"Why are you giving him this increase of pay?" To that my reply is that, owing to the general rise in prices, public servants as a rule have received increments of salaries. Why is our Publicity Officer to be deprived of this benefit? But there is a particular reason—I may call it an exceptional reason—why Mr. K. P. Roy should get an increase of pay. He was offered a job at Allahabad—a better job and carrying a higher salary, and he consulted me about the matter. He came to me with a telegram and said—"Here is a telegram which I have received from the Government of the United Provinces. I am asked to join this appointment. It is much better than my present appointment. Unless you are prepared to improve my position and prospects, I cannot possibly stay here." I know the value of Mr. K. P. Roy's services—I read his reports and not only do I read his reports, but I hear golden accounts of his work from all quarters. The other day, I was having a talk with the Vice-Chairman of the Rajpur Municipality. He said that Mr. K. P. Roy had

been there several times and that he would like to have him there for a month. He made a powerful impression on the womenfolk there by his lectures on child welfare and maternity, and they were quite impressed by what he said. I do not know if the Maharaja of Nadia is here, but he too was most anxious to have him on the occasion of the exhibition that was held at Krishnagar for lectures on sanitary subjects. Mr. K. P. Roy is a more deserving officer; he was offered a higher post and remuneration, and I felt it my duty, as a Minister, to promise an increase of pay, and I have redeemed my promise by giving him a small increase of Rs. 50 a month.

I hope my friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, is convinced of the justice of this increase.

Then, Sir, I come to another point which has been raised by Dr. Dutt. He asks—" What is the good of these volunteers? " I do not know if Dr. Dutt has been following the activities of the non-co-operation party. I do not know whether he is aware of the magnitude of the mischief which their volunteers have been doing. We, too, need a band of volunteers properly organised, properly trained and disciplined. They will render a lot of useful service to the State. The idea of having local organisations and employing volunteers to work those organisations emanated from me, and it has been taken up with avidity by one or two Magistrates, and I am most anxious that we should employ these volunteers who are local men interested in the health of the locality. We should employ them for the purpose of doing our propaganda work, so that a proper knowledge of health conditions may be diffused throughout the lenght and breath of the province. (" Hear hear.") We need not pay them unless they do their work. We have made a provision, but no money will be spent unless and until the *Samitis* have been formed and the volunteers have been organised. From what I have said, I hope my friend Dr. Dutt is convinced of the necessity of this item of expenditure.

Then, Sir, he objected to the entertainment of an additional lecturer on Rs. 200 a month. Well, Sir, I know the gentleman who is going to be employed, and I discussed the matter with Dr. Bentley. I heard him at the Dacca Conference—he is a well-known writer on Sanitation and a fine speaker—I heard him speak, and he will be of great use to us. I think, Sir, that we should attach the utmost importance to the work of publicity, for the reason that it is not enough that we should have sanitary works, but that we should diffuse sound sanitary ideas amongst our people in order that they may take advantage of the newly created sanitary conditions, and this can only be done by propaganda work.

I hope and trust, therefore, that my friend will withdraw the motion, and if he does not, I am confident that the House will not accept it.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I must accept the high certificate that has been given by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: Nothing that I have said in my speech moving my motion has received a reply from the Hon'ble Minister in course of his comments.

The motion of the Raja was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under head '33.—Public Health—Scheme 4,' for boring operations for water-supply, be refused."

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY being absent, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,000 under head '33.—Public Health—Grants for public health purposes—Scheme 10' be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,000 under head "33.—Public Health—Scheme 10," be refused.

I propose this reduction on two grounds. My first ground is that I think it would be improper to saddle the future Legislative Council with responsibility for so heavy an amount which will not be required till 1924-25. There is also no knowing what the circumstances will be at that time and what actual sum may be required for the purpose. My second ground is that, so far as I can understand, it is required for the benefit of the mill areas. The mill authorities have raised Rs. 7 lakhs and I do not think it is difficult for them to raise another Rs. 3 lakhs, as I understand they are now paying dividends at the rate of 100 per cent.

On these grounds, I propose the reduction.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I support the amendment and my reasons are these. The Titagarh Municipality has taken up a scheme costing Rs. 10 lakhs. The mill-owners have raised about Rs. 7 lakhs and it is intended that Government should guarantee to raise Rs. 3,53,000. It is only the thin end of the wedge. It is intended that this Council undertake for the next three years to get this amount for this municipality.

My objection to this scheme is this: that before we undertake to spend so much money for a single municipality, we should have placed before us a general scheme for helping mufassal municipalities and district boards. Hitherto we have been spending money for any scheme coming up before the Government without any particular regard to

the interests of other municipalities and rural areas. My submission is that we should formulate a scheme that will obtain for the whole province so that we could undertake one work after another and help the local bodies with due regard to their respective claims. If we undertake to raise this Rs. 3½ lakhs to-day we shall be bound to find money for this without due regard to the claims of other municipalities. For this reason, I would ask the House not to accept this responsibility now and I would ask the Minister to formulate a general scheme. If this Titagarh Municipality was rich enough to raise Rs. 7 lakhs, Government can advance the amount by way of loan and this can be raised at the rate of Rs. 50,000 a year and in 7 years the entire amount can be paid. Instead of granting the entire amount from the provincial fund they can raise a loan.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: It so happens that in this matter I am interested personally, and personal interest always connotes personal knowledge. I know this municipality, I pass by it almost every day It is a mistake to say that it is a municipality It is something more than that. It is a big industrial centre with a teeming and increasing population counted at the present moment at 85,000. But it is a growing population and therefore you will have to look at the matter not from the point of view of a particular industry, or of a particular population but also of the interests of the neighbouring population of that area. There is a fringe area round Titagarh and the sanitary conditions are the reverse of what they should be. There is a foul and stinking ditch opposite the Barrackpore Government school and boarding house and if this scheme were given effect to, this nuisance would be removed. I have had repeated complaints from people outside the local limits of the Titagarh Municipality regarding the insanitary surroundings by which they were infested. Therefore, it seems to me that we must approach this question from a broad standpoint. It is not a mere municipal question. It is something more. If the scheme is given effect to, it will solve the question of sanitation, and promote the health and happiness of a large population in the immediate vicinity of Calcutta. Let me point out that the Titagarh mills have deposited—not merely promised or subscribed—but deposited 7 lakhs of rupees in the Imperial Bank for this purpose and they want us to make the usual contribution which Government is accustomed to make in such cases—a proportion of one-third to two-thirds. They have given two-thirds and they expect the Government to help them in this matter by a one-third contribution. They say—we have deposited in the Bank, Rs. 7 lakhs, and we want you to pay one-third. How can you refuse? You cannot and have not refused other municipalities. Take the case of Krishnagar and other municipalities. You did not refuse an application of that kind in the case of those municipalities. On what ground of justice and equity would you refuse it in the case of the Titagarh Municipality? I put this question to the Council.

Let us consider the health and well-being of the people concerned. Let us regard it as a municipality attempting to do a particular duty in respect of which they are entitled to have a claim upon your sympathy and consideration and your pecuniary support. In other cases you support municipalities with one-third contribution. Why should you not do the same thing here? Then, Sir, let me say this: that these mill-men are public benefactors in so far as sanitation is concerned. When I took charge of the office which I have the honour to hold I regarded them with suspicion and distrust. But I have found them to be public benefactors in the truest sense of the term so far as sanitation of these particular areas is concerned. Look at Baranagore, Kamarhatti, Kanchrapara, Naihati and Titagarh—look at the supply of pure water they have given to the population beyond the limits of their own areas. As a consequence, fever has disappeared—I speak from personal knowledge—from Titagarh, Kanchrapara and Naihati and, occasionally, you have attacks of cholera. I say, therefore, that you have here a municipality which has come forward with a princely offer which you cannot in justice refuse to supplement as you have not done so in the case of other municipalities. The amount, moreover, will be paid out of loan and not out of revenue. Therefore, it will not come as a crushing burden, as it would have if it had been paid out of current revenue. I hope and trust that you wll accede to the request that they have made and support the motion for the grant. Let it not go forth that there is one law which prevails in this Council as regards particular municipalities, and another law for industrial centres and mill municipalities. Justice must be evenly distributed—to all whether they be mill municipalities or whether they be municipalities of any other kind and, therefore, in the name of justice, equity and common sense I ask this Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under head "33.— Public Health—Scheme 11" be refused.

This is a demand for helping the district board with a recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 annually. Government contribute now Rs. 1,75,000 by supplying them with their inspecting staff, etc. Some fees are realised for that purpose under this motion, each district board will be benefited by a grant of Rs. 2,000.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I can give you only one minute more and the Minister one more minute to reply.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I have finished.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I can only express my unqualified surprise that this motion has been moved by my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. We are going to free

our province from the scourge of small-pox by making vaccination free and yet Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri objects to it. Here you have a resolution passed at the Conference of the District Boards. And in face of that I do not know how my friend takes the view that he has put forward to-day.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL-HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '33.—Public Health,' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 3,99,919 be granted for expenditure under head "33.—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

34.—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I move that a sum of Rs. 1,97,933 be granted under the head "34.—Agriculture." The items which make up this sum fall under the minor heads of Veterinary, Co-operative and Agriculture proper.

The veterinary charges include Rs. 3,200 for the supply of uniforms for the officers and men of the Glanders and Farcy staff, the necessity of which is explained in the notes. These men belong to the police force and are merely lent to the Veterinary Department and our proposals provide for the supply of the uniform to which they are entitled as members of the police force. Then there is provision for a small increase in the number of Veterinary Assistants, in accordance with our policy of working up to a standard of one stationary and one itinerant assistant for each subdivision. Under Co-operative, we have provided certain obligatory charges on account of sanctioned allowances which were omitted by mistake from the original budget. Then there is the provision for an Assistant Registrar for the Burdwan Division. This is not a new proposal. The Secretary of State sanctioned the appointment of an Assistant Registrar for each division in 1920, but till now money has not been available. The rapid development of the co-operative movement has made further delay impossible, and I propose to appoint a fifth Assistant Registrar at once. Provision has also been made for the office establishment of this Assistant Registrar and of the Assistant Registrar for Chittagong who was appointed last year. The provision for an Inspector for Co-operative Irrigation Societies in Bankura is necessitated by the demand among the cultivators of that district for such societies. The need for better irrigation in Bankura is well known and a satisfactory solution of the problem will save Government the large sums that have to be spent as direct and indirect

relief in years of deficient rainfall. There is every reason to hope that these irrigation societies will go a long way towards solving the problem.

I turn now to the head of Agriculture proper. Under this head provision has been made for a first instalment of the schemes which have been worked out by the Director of Agriculture and his staff during the past year and a half; and first, I may point out that these schemes have thrown very heavy work on the shoulders of the Director. It has, therefore, been found necessary to provide him with a shorthand writer, a convenience already sanctioned for practically all heads of departments.

The question of the improvement of the breed of cattle in Bengal is one of which the importance cannot be overestimated, as on this mainly depends the improvement of the milk-supply. The Agricultural Department are doing all that is possible in present circumstances, but they are handicapped by the fact that none of their officers is a specialist in cattle-breeding. I recently had an opportunity of discussing this matter with the Imperial Dairy Expert, and he advised me that satisfactory progress could not be expected unless we secured the services of a cattle-expert. I have accepted this advice. I propose that the expert should be appointed for three years during which time I hope he will be able to train some of our officers to carry on the work.

Then there is the question of poultry-breeding. I am sure that this could be made a profitable industry and I propose to depute a District Agricultural Officer for special training in the subject.

A frequent complaint against the Agricultural Department is that the results of the experts' researches do not reach the agriculturists. The officers through whom the department keeps in touch with the cultivators are District Agricultural Officers and Demonstrators, and I fully recognise the necessity of increasing the strength of these grades. I hope that, ultimately, we shall have a District Agricultural Officer in every subdivision and a demonstrator in every police station in the province. For the present, I am asking for an addition of 20 District Agricultural Officers and 50 Demonstrators.

The department perhaps secures its most immediate results from the distribution of pure seeds to the cultivators. The demand for these seeds has become so great that Government cannot meet it from the existing seed-farms; it has, therefore, been necessary to fall back upon private enterprise, and we have encouraged the starting of private seed-farms to grow departmental seeds. I am asking for a sum of Rs. 10,000 to purchase seeds from the private farms and distribute them to the cultivators. This amount will, of course, be ultimately recovered from the cultivators.

Provision has also been made for irrigation experiments. These are of very great importance, specially in Western Bengal. The provision

is made in item No. 24, page 240, and item No. 26, page 244 of the printed estimates. These sums, if voted, will enable us to experiment with irrigation both by means of pumping and by means of tube-wells.

Next, I turn to agricultural education. The demand includes a provision for the extension both of secondary and of elementary agricultural education. For secondary agricultural education, we are asking for a grant of Rs. 11,800 to enable us to make a start for a secondary agricultural school at Rangpore. The Rangpore Agricultural Association have made a generous offer to contribute Rs. 10,000 as capital cost of the school and Rs. 1,800 a year to meet the recurring expenses. The farm schools for which the sum of Rs. 30,000 is provided, are intended to serve two purposes. They will, in the first place, form a demonstration centre for the area in which they are located. The teacher will be of the demonstrator class and will be competent to demonstrate to the cultivators of the neighbourhood, the improved seeds, manures and processes of the Agricultural Department. They will, at the same time, impart elementary agricultural instruction to the sons of the cultivators. The details of the scheme are explained in the note, and I need not go into them now. They were considered at a meeting of the Board of Agriculture at which the members of the Standing Committee for Agriculture were also present, in April last, and our proposals are based on the views of the conference. The provision of Rs. 9,000 for the extension of the sericultural nursery at Piasbary, in the district of Malda, is required to enable the department to grow sufficient mulberries to feed the worms. At present they have to rely largely on purchases from outside, and there is always the risk of these being infected, or being capable of infecting worms with contagious disease. The policy of Government with regard to these nurseries was discussed at a conference held in March last, and it was decided that Government should not attempt to increase its present output of seed, as it would probably result in ousting the rearers from the market. It was decided that the policy should be to maintain the present output of seed, to give the rearers preference in disposing of the seed and to grow sufficient mulberry on the nurseries to feed the worms without making purchases from outside.

In connection with our new farms, provision is made for certain establishments and also for the cattle required to cultivate them; at the same time a further sum has had to be included on account of the increased cost of feeding the cattle. I am asking for Rs. 5,000 for the extension of the Agricultural Farm at Bogra. The existing farm is all on red soil, and it is necessary that some alluvial soil should be acquired to enable us to experiment with the crops suitable for the large alluvial tract of the district.

Then there is a provision for thorough repairs to the buildings and roads of the Dacca Farm and of the sericulture nurseries. At present these buildings and roads are repaired departmentally. The work will

be done more efficiently if they are made over to the Public Works Department for maintenance, but before the Public Works Department accept the responsibility, we must carry out the repairs which will bring the roads and buildings up to the Public Works standard.

I need not discuss in detail the other provisions for increasing the staff. These are for the most part comparatively small, and I can assure the Council that no increase has been sanctioned except where it has been shown to be urgent and unavoidably necessary.

As regards the few items to which I have not made specific reference, I think the Council will find that ample information has been given in the notes, and I ask the Council to vote the demand for Rs. 1,97,933 in full.

Motions for reduction.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,400 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 3," be reduced by Rs. 400."

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

This means an additional expenditure only. Originally the Police Inspectors did not get uniform charges from the Government. They get these charges now and Rs. 2,400 have, therefore, been provided for this item on account of the uniform charges of eight Glanders Inspectors. This expenditure is not reasonable. As the Police Inspectors have been provided with these uniform charges so also these Glanders Inspectors should similarly be provided with the same—this is an argument which is far from being consistent and logical.

Do you mean that we have to follow the example of the Police whose uniform charges have been carried in the Council on account of the preponderance of the votes on the Government side or through persuation or coercion? A comparison has been drawn between Calcutta and Bombay. If the Police charges in Bombay are greater than those in Calcutta, either as I have just observed, on account of the preponderance of votes on the Government side or for some reason or other, and if these charges are totally unreasonable, I fail to appreciate why Calcutta should follow in the footsteps of Bombay in this respect. The Bengal Government have not paid for these charges up till now. I should rather advocate that the amount which has been realised by sucking the life-blood of the people ought to be spent in some other higher and nobler cause.

Reasonings have become unavailing and our cry is like a cry in the wilderness. However, instead of refusing the whole demand of Rs. 2,400, I should like to reduce only Rs. 400, and move for the grant of Rs. 2,000 at the rate of Rs. 250 for each of the eight inspectors.

In this connection let me add that no details have been furnished in the "remarks" column of the Budget Estimate, but I take it that this has been calculated on the lines of the police grant. In these hard days, Sir, it would be, I think, proper and prudent if the charges are fixed reasonably. A sum of Rs. 300 for each uniform seems extraordinarily high. It is extravagant. To my mind, Rs. 250 is quite sufficient. Many members of this House may treat Rs. 400 as an insignificant reduction, but my idea is that this will serve as an object-lesson to other officers. Besides, Rs. 400 per annum is not a petty sum. It will cost you Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 to acquire a property from which Rs. 400 may be derived as an annual income.

The report of the Retrenchment Committee will soon be out. Why not wait and see? Anyway, I hope that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge will do immense good to the country by minimising the expenditure in this item.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Up to the year 1912, the Glanders Inspectors were supplied with free uniform by Government. In that year, the free supply of uniform was abolished on the ground that it had been abolished for the Inspectors of the Calcutta Police. The free supply of uniform for Inspectors of the Calcutta Police has now been sanctioned again. Our ground for withholding the privilege from the Glanders Inspectors, therefore, falls to the ground, and I think it is only just to these men that they should also be supplied with free uniforms. The cost proposed to be allowed for each set is the same as that sanctioned for the Calcutta Police. I ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,000 under head "3¢.—Agriculture—Scheme 9" be refused.

When money happens to be somehow plentiful in the public coffers, many a silly proposal may be put forward by Government for acceptance by this Council. But, Sir, this proposal for the appointment of an expert officer for cattle-breeding seems in point of silliness hard to beat. Ordinary common sense says that for the purpose of improving or increasing the breed of cattle we require something other than expert officers, however high their salaries may be and however full of European qualifications. In the note we read that the question of the improvement of cattle-breeding in Bengal has been the subject of discussion in the Bengal Legislative Council. I am extremely sorry that the discussions in the Bengal Legislative Council should have led to nothing greater than the proposal for the appointment of an expert officers for the purpose of improving cattle-breeding. Then, Sir, we read that this question has been the subject of careful consideration by Government. I sincerely wish that all this care and consideration

had been reserved by Government for some other useful purpose. Then, Sir, we read that the services of a cattle-breeding expert are essential for the preparation of a detailed scheme. What a scheme of cattle-breeding may be passes my comprehension. It is said that it is proposed to appoint the expert for a term of three years. Good Heavens! The ultimate expenditure is Rs. 16,000 a year, and in three years we shall have to spend about half a lakh for the purpose of employing an expert officer alone! I submit that this is not the way in which the tax-payer's money should be spent. If the proposal were for the purchase of some stud-bulls, the Council would be too glad to sanction the money required. But I oppose most strongly this proposal for the appointment of an expert officer on Rs. 1,000 a month *plus* travelling allowance of Rs. 200 a month. No case has been made out, and the statement is not sufficient to convince the members of this House.

With these few words, I oppose the demand.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Without taking up much time of the Council, I simply beg to support the motion moved by my friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. I oppose the demand as I think that such a costly arrangement is not necessary, and it can very well be done otherwise. I do not think we shall be justified in spending so much money on an appointment like this.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: In these hard days, we should be careful not to appoint more officers. The question is whether it is necessary to appoint an expert cattle-breeding officer. Everyone knows that it is not necessary to appoint an officer for that purpose. Cattle-breeding farms may be erected and cattle may be bred by keeping good bulls, and it is not necessary to engage an expert officer for that purpose on Rs. 1,000 per month. I also adopt that arguments which have been put forward by Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I have little to add to what has been said by Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. In the note appended to this demand, it is said that this question has been the subject of discussion in the Bengal Legislative Council. Since when the Government has developed so much regard for the wishes of the Legislative Council I do not know, but the appointment of an expert in cattle-breeding is certainly not what the Legislative Council desired. On the contrary, what the Legislative Council wanted was something altogether different. On the 6th September, 1921, Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikat moved the following resolution:—

This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to improve the breed of cattle in Bengal—

(*a*) by providing suitable bulls;

(*b*) by providing grazing-grounds;

(*c*) by encouraging the system of indigenous veterinary treatment; and

(*d*) by offering prizes, rewards and cups in the local *hâts* and *melâs* for good cattle.

And Government has not thought fit to provide for any of these items although the Minister in charge observed in reply—

The mover has suggested four means by which the breed of cattle in Bengal can be improved. In the first place, he asks for the provision of suitable bulls I am well aware of the fact that the existing number of bulls maintained by local bodies and Government for breeding purposes is hopelessly insufficient. Matters are therefore being put in train for providing stud-bulls throughout the province.

The paucity of good breeding bulls was admitted by the Hon'ble Minister in charge, yet he has not thought fit to budget any sum for the removal of this want. On the contrary he compliments the Legislative Council by simply providing for the appointment of an expert officer in cattle-breeding on Rs. 1,000 a month. Moreover, I may here remind the House of one thing. The United Provinces Government has got an expert in cattle-breeding on Rs. 750 a month, but the Bengal Government is going to provide for an initial pay of Rs. 1,000.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: It is an admitted fact that 75 per cent. of the population of Bengal live on agriculture. Agriculture is the most important subject to which we must pay our attention. To carry on agriculture, we require strong and stout bulls and bullocks and it is also an admitted fact that the breed of cattle at present obtained in Bengal is much inferior to what is obtained in other countries. In the district boards also, we are trying to keep stud-bulls and thereby, in a humble way, we are trying to improve the breed of cattle, but we are left without any efficient officer and without proper advice. We are left to sending our veterinary officers for purchase of bulls which will be suitable for particular districts. These officers hopelessly lack knowledge which is essentially necessary for the proper selection of bulls for particular districts. What is being done at present? At present experiments are going on in the Rangpur Farm as well as in the Dacca Farm. Two systems obtain in the Rangpur Farm:—

(1) The covering of the country cows with the local variety of improved and healthy strong and stout bulls. By that method some improvement has been effected.

(2) There is another experiment, that is, covering the local cows with Hissar bulls, and this experiment has given very satisfactory results.

In order to avail ourselves of the advantages that have been derived from the experiments in the Rangpur Farm, we require the help of an expert gentleman who can give us proper advise and help in the selection of the proper variety of bulls. In the Dacca Farm also, an experiment is going on of covering the variety of red and black cows—a kind of cows that originally came from Burma, but have now become common in the districts of Dacca and Chittagong—by a kind of bulls called Scindhi, and this has also given very satisfactory results both in

the shape of improved physique of the cows as well as greater power of giving milk. So we must carry on this sort of experiment with new variety of bulls that are to be found in India, or we may import them from other countries. For this purpose we must take the help of an expert officer, who can usefully advise us in the selection of the proper variety of bulls which are suitable for cows of a particular district. I can tell this House that the bull which is suitable for cows in Birbhum is not suitable for those in Pabna. Therefore, we must take the help of an officer who can exactly tell us for what particular district what sort of bull must be imported, and in order to serve that purpose our Minister must try to get hold of an officer who can advise him with due regard to the condition and quality of the cows that are obtained in the various districts of Bengal which are quite different from the others. So I strongly oppose this motion for refusing the demand.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: It is an admitted fact that the Department of Agriculture was practically in its infancy when the Reforms came into existence. We also know that the members of this Council have again and again urged that our Minister has done nothing so far as the improvement of agriculture in this province is concerned He has come with a definite proposal and a definite scheme and he wants money for that purpose, and we find that some of the members of this Council are of opinion that this particular scheme would be of no practical effect and, therefore, this demand must be refused. But to me it seems, Sir, as my friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, has pointed out, that the members who are opposing this demand are under a misapprehension. The object of having an expert is not to increase the number of bulls simply. The object is to improve the quality of the cattle in this province. You may have any number of bulls in a particular district and any number of cows and by crossing them you cannot get that particular cattle which you desire to have. It has been found on experiment that by cross-breeding—of course after proper selection—you get a better type of cattle, and for that reason expert advice is absolutely necessary. It is not possible for laymen to advise whether a Birbhum stud-bull should be crossed with a Chittagong cow. But it has been found on experiment that if proper bulls are selected and if cross-breeding takes place according to the scientific method, then not only can we get better cattle in the next generation, but we also get a large quantity of milk. I have been told that the new breed goes on giving an increase in the milk-supply in a certain proportion—I exactly forget whether in an arithmetical or geometrical progression. These things go to show that any practical efforts to improve agriculture must be preceded by experiments. We have got enough lands in this country, also enough seeds, but for want of expert advice as to what sort of manure should be applied to what kind of soil, the result is that we do not even get the actual product which we

ought to get. Following that principle, the same thing is going to be applied to cattle-breeding. The object is not simply to have cattle-breeding in the ordinary sense of the word, but rather to improve the quality of the cattle in the province, so that the quantity of milk may be increased. There is a cry in the province that we must take steps for increasing the milk-supply. If we can improve the quality of the cattle, it will give more and more milk and that can be only done by cross-breeding after proper selection of bulls, and that can be done by expert advisers.

With these remarks, I think it is my duty to oppose the motion of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The urgency of improving the breed of cattle in Bengal is generally recognised and the question has been frequently the subject of discussion in this Council. Since the year 1913, experiments have been carried on in breeding at the Rangpur Cattle Farm and definite results are now in view, but if the breeding of cattle in Bengal is to be practically benefited, it is necessary to take up operations on a larger scale. It has even been suggested that a cattle section should be attached to every district farm in the province. I recently had an opportunity of consulting the Imperial Dairy Expert as to the policy which we should adopt with regard to cattle-breeding. He advised me that the first step necessary was to appoint an officer with expert knowledge of the subject, for, at present we have not in the department any officer who has specialised in cattle-breeding. The Imperial Dairy Expert is an officer of wide experience and of great knowledge in the subject, and I have, therefore, decided to accept his advice. I have proposed that a cattle specialist should be appointed for a period of three years only. In the course of these three years there is every reason to believe that he will be able to train up some of our officers to carry on the work when his agreement expires. The cost, therefore, is very moderate, and in view of this and of the importance of starting operations on a sound line of policy, I ask the Council to approve of the proposal and to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Riley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hussain, Maulvi Muhammad Madassur.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Nasker, Mirza Muhammad Ali.

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 30 and the Noes 28, the motion was carried.

The following motions, standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

"That the demand of Rs. 1,841 under head '34.—Agriculture,' for an additional Provincial Service officer for the Rajshahi Farm, be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 473 under head '34.—Agriculture,' for the deputation of a district agricultural officer for training in poultry work, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 28,000 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11," for the provision of 20 district agricultural officers for subdivisions, be refused."

I do not wish to take up the time of this Council by making a very long speech, and I will briefly indicate my reasons why I oppose this demand. As far as my own personal experience goes, the district agricultural officers, who are already employed in the department, have not got much work to do. In some cases I have found that these district officers only sell seeds to the public, a function which can very well be performed by any ordinary *bania* in the city. I do not understand that the work of the department has so far increased as to necessitate the appointment of so many district agricultural officers. If the Hon'ble Minister can satisfy us that there is a real demand for so many officers, we shall only be too glad to vote the money, but, as at present advised, I feel sure that there is no need for so many officers, particularly in view of the fact that the officers who are already in the department have not got much work in hand.

With these few words, I beg leave to oppose this demand.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to support Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq's motion for the refusal of this demand. In connection with the voting of grants when the principal budget was under consideration, we had occasion to remark that the Department of Agriculture was one of the most staff-ridden departments and that more than 50 per cent. of the total expenditure for agriculture was swallowed by establishment charges and by the cost of supervision. The Council will remember that the total estimated expenditure for superintendence and supervision in connection with this department came up to the heavy figure of Rs. 4,73,000 this year, although in the previous year 1921-22, it covered only Rs. 4,12,000, that is, in spite of the financial difficulties it was thought fit to increase these charges by about Rs. 61,000, so that the total charges for establishment and the cost of supervision under this head now came up to Rs. 4,73,000. Further, it should be remembered that this year in the principal budget itself several reductions were proposed by the Government with regard to some other items of expenditure under this head entailing heavy curtailment of almost all the beneficent activities of this department. Thus, on referring to the principal budget, it will be seen that a reduction of 17 per cent. has been effected so far as expenditure on experimental farms is concerned. A very large reduction of Rs. 74,500 or more than 75 per cent. of the expenditure has been effected so far as agricultural experiments are concerned. As regards the provision for seed stores, the Hon'ble Minister has just said that there has been a great demand for seeds. Well, the expenditure under this head also has been cut down by Rs. 12,000, *i.e.*, by 45 per cent. And in this supplementary budget the Hon'ble Minister has not thought fit to provide even that much, but only Rs. 10,000 for seeds. Yet, when the activities of the Department of Agriculture, so far as new schemes, and the schemes which will ultimately improve the agricultural outlook and prospects of the province are concerned, are so ruthlessly curtailed, this department is going to provide Rs. 28,000 for additional staff work and increase the cost of supervision and establishment charges by no less an amount than Rs. 78,960 per annum. This is the heaviest item of recurring expenditure provided for in the supplementary budget. The Council will note that it is a demand only for strengthening the staff of the department; it will provide neither for researches nor for more demonstration, not even for agricultural education. The Government has got a full-fledged scheme for agricultural education which it styles as an inexpensive one; yet it does not see its way to provide sufficient money to carry out the scheme! Only Rs. 30,000 has been provided for farm schools and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,800 has been provided for only because the Rangpur Agricultural Association have offered Rs. 10,000 as initial outlay. Had this sum, *i.e.*, the recurring expenditure of Rs. 78,000 been provided for agricultural education, in course of three or four years, Bengal would have been provided with a net work of agricultural schools and institutions, but it

was not so fortunate. It is a demand for strengthening or rather augmenting the establishment charges for further draining the slender resources of the province and not for adding to them.

In that view, Sir, I beg to support the motion and oppose the demand.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: I beg to support Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq's motion that the provision of 20 district agricultural officers be refused.

If, Sir, the appointment of 20 more subdivisional agricultural officers improves the agricultural state of the province, I should be the first person to support the Hon'ble Minister's demand, but the question is whether agriculture can be improved in this way I am of opinion that the appointment of 29, 30, 40 or even more district agricultural officers will not in any way improve the agriculture of the province; therefore, I support the motion of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq.

I come from the mufassal, from a rural area, and I can say from my personal experience that these agricultural officers are of no use to us at all. Firstly, what are they doing? They go somewhere in the districts and only tell the people that some sort of manure will improve some particular crops. They are not able to tour throughout the district; they go only to some specified locality and tell the peasants there that certain manures will improve their agriculture. It is said that these officers should be appointed in order to facilitate the work of the distribution of improved seeds. Now, Sir, these improved seeds may be distributed in other ways than by the appointment of district agricultural officers. This may be done with the help of the demonstrators, through the help of thana officers, through union board or through the panchayet. So where then is the necessity of appointing 20 more agricultural officers for the distribution of the seeds? It is also said that for the supervision of the demonstrators in the interior, it is necessary that these officers should be appointed. There are demonstrators and an agricultural officer already at the headquarters of every district. With the help of these demonstrators, demonstration can be carried on in the interior and these demonstration can be supervised by the agricultural officer who resides at the district headquarters. Therefore, it is not necessary to appoint these district agricultural officers for the distribution of seed or for carrying on demonstraion in the interior. My opinion is that the appointment of more and more officers will not at all improve the agriculture of the province. The peasant population residing in the rural areas already know very well how to cultivate the land, how the outturn of their lands may be increased by the application of, and by the use of, manures, and similar things. What they want is money. What they want is irrigation, and not district agricultural officers. If you can make provision for watering their lands, if you can provide these peasants with money, then and then only will they get real benefit from the

improved seeds. It is absurd to appoint agricultural officers to help the agriculture of the province. Let me repeat once again that unless and until we can make suitable arrangements for irrigation, for providing the peasants with money, we shall not be able to improve the agriculture of the land, although you may appoint one officer for every village.

For all these reasons, I have decided to support the motion of my friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, and I earnestly appeal to the House to refuse this demand.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I beg to support the motion of my friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq. The details show that there is a recurring expenditure of Rs. 78,916. This year only Rs. 28,000 is required. I do not think such a heavy sum ought to be spent over the appointment of district agricultural officers. Their duty is the distribution of improved seeds and to conduct demonstration in the interior. Demonstration is of no use in the interior; it will only add to the travelling allowance of the departmental officers. The improved seeds may be distributed by demonstrators. There is a demand for 50 additional demonstrators in this budget. They may easily distribute the seeds. Some scholarships may be created for the benefit of the cultivators' sons, but such a heavy sum ought not to be spent over the appointment of more agricultural officers. It is of no use and I oppose the demand and hope the Council will also do so.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I just want to bring to the notice of this Council a little information about this matter. Only this morning at the Co-operative Conference held at the Dalhousie Institute, His Excellency the Governor was pleased to state that the question as to the desirability or otherwise of seed distribution by Government should be seriously considered and he sugested that it would be better that private agencies should take up the work. In view of such a statement from the Head of the Government, I do not think that the Hon'ble Minister is justified in asking for this money.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: All these amendments seek to curtail the grants that are intended to improve the agriculture of the province. There is much misapprehension as to the proper functions of these agricultural officers. My friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has said the duties of these officers is confined to the distribution of seeds; while Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said that that part of the business is going to be transferred to private agency. In that case——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope the Khan Bahadur will try to be as brief as possible.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I am opposing all these amendments. I am not going to take much time and I shall be as brief as possible.

If, as His Excellency has said, the distribution of seeds is going to be done by private agency, then this department ought to be abolished altogether. Perhaps the members of this Council are aware that research work is going on in the farms at Dacca. There are three distinct functions of the district agricultural officers: the first is to demonstrate the results obtained at the research farms at local farms which we establish in every district; in the second place, when it is found that the new crops obtained by research prosper well in the farms; it is the next business of the agricultural officer to introduce these things into the interior of the country; in the third place, it is his businses to demonstrate these things in individual cases with the help of the demonstrators. These are the three functions; and it is not his primary function to distribute the seed only.

Now, some of the supporters of the resolution have already said that the district agricultural officer cannot be expected to go to every part of the district. His activity must be confined to a smaller area. We know that a district is a vast area and the conditions obtaining in different parts of the province vary to a considerable extent. Then the conditions in a subdivision are not the same as those obtaining in another. If one kind of experiment is successful in one part of the subdivision, it is not likely to be successful in another part. Therefore, each officer should take up that particular variety of experiment which is likely to be successful; for this purpose every subdivision must have an agricultural officer, as, for instance, in the Pabna district, there are some areas which are essentially fit for potato and for transplanted winter paddy. The Serajganj subdivision is essentially fit for jute cultivation. We cannot expect that the same officer residing at Pabna will have sufficient time to go over the whole of the district and to find out what particular crop is suitable for that part of the district. For example, *Indrasail* paddy has been found to be a most heavy yielding crop. If an officer has to try experiments with the help of demonstrators in order to give proper instruction to these demonstrators, we should require an increase in the number of agricultural officers for the subdivisions. If you want that the *Indrasail* paddy should be demonstrated, then the officer in the Sadar subdivision should have four or five demonstrators to help him and with the help of these demonstrators he could introduce the *Indrasail* paddy to the areas where the transplantation of winter paddy obtains. Then again, if he finds by demonstration in the district farms that the cultivation of paddy is likely to be a very paying concern to a particular district, he will have to demonstrate and introduce it to the individual farms. For that purpose, an increased number of officers is required. We cannot expect one officer to introduce paddy throughout the district as the conditions of the soil generally vary in different parts of the district, one part may be suitable for potato while another may be suitable for paddy. So one single officer cannot cope with the work which will entail upon him for the demonstration of these things

in the individual farms and then to individual cultivators. In order to give proper education, the number of demonstrators should be increased, for which we have been crying hoarse for some time past. Formerly, the Agricultural Department was a top-heavy department, but the Hon'ble Minister is now moving in the right direction by increasing the number of agricultural officers and demonstrators. So I submit that it is but proper that the members of this Council should help the Minister by providing him these officers so that the results obtained in the research farms may be brought nearer the doors of cultivators.

Of course my friend Maulvi Mahammed Madassur Hussain has said that unless we can provide for irrigation facilities, it is no good appointing a number of agricultural officers. It is quite true. At the same time, it is not reasonable that because we cannot do one thing, we should abstain from doing the other. Nobody can say that, by the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, we have gained nothing. We have improved the cultivation of jute by the introduction of the *Kakaya* Bombay jute. These things have their use in their own way. It seems essential that the results obtained at the researches should be introduced in the interior by the help of these officers. I, therefore, think that the Council should do well to vote solid in favour of the amount required for the entertainment of these officers.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur being absent, the following motion standing in his name was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 28,000 for the provision of 20 district agricultural officers for subdivisions under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11' be reduced to Rs. 15,000."

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I had no mind to take part in the working of this session of the Council, because all our cry is nothing but a cry in the wilderness. The Council has given their vote in favour of many useless items of expenditure that were put before it; so I do not see any reason why we should not pass this grant also.

With these words, I beg to oppose the motions.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have frequently been told, both in the Council and outside, that the Department of Agriculture fails to keep in touch with the actual cultivators of the soil, and to bring to their notice the improvements which have been worked out by the scientific experts of the department. It is on the district agricultural officers and demonstrators that we rely for keeping in touch with the cultivators, and any failure of the department to bring those improvements to the notice of the agricultural classes, is simply due to the fact that we have not sufficient officers of these grades. In a resolution issued in 1919, the

Government announced that its policy was to aim at providing a demonstrator for every police-station in Bengal. An increase in the number of district agricultural officers is a necessary corollary to an increase in the number of demonstrators. We cannot place a demonstrator in a rural area and leave it to his discretion to do such work as he pleases. Supervision is essential. The demonstrator, though he is sufficiently trained for the purposes for which he is employed, is not a man of much education or capable of assuming much responsibility. To guide and advise him in his work, a district agricultural officer is necessary, and if we are to have a demonstrator for every police-station in Bengal, we must have at least one district agricultural officer for every subdivision in the province. In fact, in many of the larger subdivisions, I think one officer will be found to be insufficient. For the present, however, we are merely asking for 20 more officers of this class. The Director of Agriculture has furnished me with a list of subdivisions to which they will be posted and of the work which each of them will be required to do there. I can assure the Council that this work is of the utmost importance and value and will be of direct benefit to the cultivators. Wherever I have gone on tour, either in the district or in the subdivision, I was much impressed with the crying demand for demonstration on the part of the local people.

I, therefore, ask the Council to reject these motions.

The motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Roy, Babu Naini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

NOES.

Al[illegible] Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinas Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwa the Hon'ble the
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-

Roy, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.	Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Roy, Mr. J. N.	Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Spry, Mr. H. E.	Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.	Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 26, and the Noes 29, the motion was lost.

The following motions, standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 11,200 under head '34a—Agriculture—Scheme 12' for the provision of 50 additional demonstrators, be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 1,960 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 13' being the provision for additional staff under expert officers, be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 13,500 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 19' being the provision for additional cattle for farms and increased cost of food, be refused."

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 5,000 under head "34.—Agriculture—Experimental Farms—Scheme 20" be reduced by Re. 1.

It is for acquiring fresh lands for another farm at Bogra that this demand is made, the old one having proved a failure, I am sure through the fault of a so-called expert to select a suitable site. The Council should be enlightened as to who this expert is, what action has been taken against him, and what he is now. I suggest the reduction of the grant, unless all these are promised to be done.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (Mr. J. A. L. Swan): I think the member has delivered a speech which he prepared for another item. We are at present discussing item No. 283, which has nothing to do with what he has said.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think there is some mistake, Raja Sahib.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I am sorry. In that case, I cannot but withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 21,' for the establishment of a farm for conducting experiments with crops on the alluvial soils of the Bogra district, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,000 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 23," being a lump provision for the purchase of pure seed from private seed-farms, be refused.

The reason why I move this motion is that the note given in this book does not explain in sufficient clearness why this demand has been made. It means an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 every year, and I do not understand the necessity for these purchases, nor the places from which these purchases are to be made. In this state of uncertainty as to the utility of the demand, I have been led to move this motion for refusal of the demand. As I do not know much about the subject, I cannot say anything more. I put this motion before the Council for discussion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have already explained the necessity for this grant in my speech moving that the demand be voted. The demand for departmental seeds, such as jute and paddy and for sugar-cane cuttings has been steadily increasing, and it is now quite impossible for the department to meet it from the existing seed-farms. Accordingly, the department has encouraged the starting of private farms for the propagation of departmental seeds. These farms are inspected by the officers of the department, and when the seed is ready it is purchased from them. It is then sold to the cultivators at a price which covers the cost to the department. The scheme does not actually, therefore, involve any cost to the Government. The sum of Rs. 10,000 for which the demand is made will be recouped by recovery from the cultivators to whom the seed is sold. As, however, under the Account rules, receipts are not available for expenditure, but must be credited to Government, it is necessary to make provision on the expenditure side of the Budget for the purchase of seeds. This branch of the work of the Department of Agriculture is, perhaps, more appreciated than any other by the actual cultivators, and at the same time it costs Government nothing.

I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I am perfectly satisfied with this explanation. I am sorry that I had to trouble the Hon'ble Minister in this connection, but I must say that the note given in this book is very insufficient. However, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,950 under head "34.—Agriculture—Agricultural Experiments—Scheme 24" be refused.

I see, Sir, that this relates to a demand of Rs. 1,950 to instal a pumping plant for demonstration of irrigation by raising water, etc., and the recurring charges of which would be Rs. 50 a month besides the annual repair. I would first of all ask how many cultivators are there in the

land who are in a position to go in for one costing about Rs. 2,000 and if this is not intended for the cultivators in general, then there is no need for the demand.

I, therefore, oppose the grant.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: Many speakers have said that it is no use employing agricultural officers unless you can provide for watering the lands; and this experiment is intended for that purpose. You all know that when there is scarcity of water, it is difficult to cultivate lands without recourse to irrigation, and for that purpose this experiment is going to take place at the Berhampore farm. I had a talk with Mr. Evans, the Director of Agriculture, on this subject and I requested him to find out what the cost would be to irrigate lands with one inch of water during the hot weather. You know there was a failure of rains this year at the time of sowing and, consequently, there had been no cultivation in time; cultivation had to be delayed towards the end of April, in May and even for some time in June. I dare say most of the crops sown at an exorbitant cost are now being destroyed by the wild force of the water flowing through the lands, as they were not sown in time and the flood would not wait for anybody. It is desirable that lands should be irrigated in time when required for sowing purposes and it is, therefore, necessary that an experiment should be made in that direction. I also made a request to Mr. Evans to find out the recurring expenditure of the plant for the purpose of this irrigation. If you understand all these, I think you will support the demand.

Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur: I think the mover of this motion does not quite understand the spirit of the thing. The sum is intended for the purchase of a pump for the Berhampore Farm. It is not only intended for the benefit of the farm but it will also serve the purpose of making a demonstration to the raiyats, tenants and cultivators in general. I know from personal experience—I purchased a small pump and a boiler for the benefit of my own private farm some time ago. My district has derived such benefit from it that big cultivators, specially a *Mohunt*, who is practically a *Sanyasi* but an agriculturist, has asked me to secure similar plant for him. It is quite possible that tenants and cultivators, who will have a chance of having a demonstration of the pump, may wish to have similar plant established in their own private farms. Consequently, for the Department of Agriculture to incur a monthly expenditure of Rs. 50 for the maintenance of the pump is not much, considering the benefit that will be derived from such a plant by the farm and the cultivators in general.

With these words, I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: In many parts of the province, irrigation can be conveniently and cheaply carried out by utilising the water of neighbouring

tanks. To popularise this method of irrigation it is necessary to demonstrate the use of a cheap efficient pump. The money is required for purchasing and setting up a portable pump of this kind at Berhampore where facilities exist for irrigation by this means. Though the cost of the pump may be beyond the means of an individual cultivator, it will be easily within the means of a co-operative irrigation society, and well-to-do zamindars will, I hope, instal such plants for the use of their tenants. I ask the Council to vote the money for the purpose and to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Thursday, the 13th July, 1922, at 3 P.M., at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 13th July, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 94 nominated and elected members.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Scarcity of drinking water.

184. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been draw to the scarcity of drinking water and the consequent outbreak of cholera in the rural areas in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what special steps have been taken during the last official year to remove or alleviate the said scarcity of water in the said areas?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) The Minister is aware that there was a serious scarcity of drinking water in the rural areas of Bengal during the hot weather. The mortality from cholera during the period from April to June, 1922, was heavy but was actually less than the mortality for the same period in 1921.

(*b*) The local bodies in rural areas are primarily responsible for the improvement of the water-supply but Government is anxious to do all in its power to assist the local bodies in dealing with this difficult problem. It is hoped that measures which may be undertaken for the abatement of malaria will at the same time have the effect of assisting in the solution of the problem.

Subordinate Educational Service.

185. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is correct that the Central Committee of

the "All-Bengal Government School Teachers Association" hav submitted, during their deputation to the Hon'ble the Minister whil at Dacca, a note stating numerous anomalies brought about by th organisation of the Subordinate Educational Service?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether h contemplates issuing a *communiqué* on the allegations made in th note?

(*c*) Is it correct that as an effect of the reorganisation of th pay and prospects of every individual officer in all other services under the Government except in the Educational Services below the Benga Educational Service the number of officers adversely affected is almost nil?

(*d*) Is it correct that more than 52 per cent. of the teachers originally in the grades of the Subordinate Educational Service has been adversely affected by the new organisation?

(*e*) Is it correct that the pay and prospects of the vast majority of the teachers who entered the Subordinate Educational Service at the lowest grade have been made adversely affected by the recent reorganisation?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A *communiqué* does not appear necessary: individual cases of anomaly will be considered as opportunity of modification offers.

(*c*) The Minister in charge of the Department of Education has no information regarding the services under other Departments.

(*d*) It is not correct.

(*e*) Mere automatic promotion would not ensure what is often urged by those affected—but quite incorrectly—that every man in the Subordinate Educational Service would rise, or could rise, to the maximum Rs. 250. The rate of progress in the old graded Subordinate Educational Service worked somewhat thus:—

6–7	years in	Class	VIII	on Rs	50
5	,,		VII	,, ,,	60
5	,,		VI	,, ,,	75
5	,,		V	,, ,,	100
4	,,		IV	,, ,,	125
4	,,		III	,, ,,	150
3–4	,,		II	,, ,,	200

So that very few of those who entered on Rs. 50, the usual place for High School teachers, rose to Class II or I. In the present scheme, High School graduate teachers rise automatically from Rs. 75—5—200 and, when selected for Assistant Head Masters, are put in the scale

Rs. 150—10—250. Similarly the Vernacular Teachers' service was Rs. 30—1—50: corresponding teachers are now on Rs. 50—2—80—3—110 or Rs. 35—2—75—3—90. Furthermore, opportunities of promotion are now more liberal. Head Masters are in the Bengal Educational Service—though this is not due to the Reorganisation Committee, and Assistant Head Masters on a special scale: there are thus two special appointments in every school, and as these appointments are in practice likely to fall to only graduate teachers, there are two prize appointments for about every 8 or 10 teachers. Any deserving teacher, therefore, is certain of good chances of promotion beyond Rs. 200.

Capital grants to the Calcutta University.

186. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what capital grants have been received by the Calcutta University from—

(*i*) private sources,

(*ii*) the Government, Provincial or Imperial,

since the reconstitution of the University under the present Indian Universities Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Two statements compiled from figures, as supplied by the University, are laid on the table.

Statement I referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 186, showing the grants made from private sources to the University of Calcutta, from 1904-05 onwards.

	Rs.
(1) Sir Taruknath Palit	14,65,800
(2) Sir Rashbehary Ghose (first gift)	10,00,000
Sir Rashbehary Ghose (second gift)	11,43,000
Sir Rashbehary Ghose (third gift)	2,50,000
(3) Kumar Guruprasad Singh, of Khaira	5,50,000
(4) Mr. Guruprasanna Ghose	2,04,000
(5) Mr. G. D. Birla	15,000
(6) Sir Asutosh Mookerjee Birthday Memorial Committee	3,300
(7) Mr. G. C. Bose.	1,500
(8) Mr. Sachiswar Banerjee	3,000
(9) P. Mukerjee Memorial Committee	400
(10) Mr. Adharchandra Mukerjee	18,000
(11) Mr. Brahmamohan Mallik	2,500

		Rs.
(12)	Mr. Dwijeschandra Chakrabarti	500
(13)	Mr. Keshoram Poddar	5,000
(14)	Rai Abhoyacharan Mitra, Bahadur	1,000
(15)	Assistants of the Calcutta University	500
(16)	Mr. Onauthnauth Deb	30,000
(17)	Bengal Social Science Association	3,500
(18)	Mr. Preonath Mallik	2,500
(19)	Dr. Chandrashekhar Kali	2,000
(20)	Clint Memorial Committee	400
(21)	Rai Debendranath Ray Bahadur Memorial Committee	1,500
(22)	Duke Memorial Committee	4,000
(23)	Coronation Executive Committee	1,000
(24)	N. N. Ghose Memorial Committee	1,000
(25)	Mr. Dwarkanath Ghosh	2,000
(26)	Mr. Lalitchandra Mitra	1,000
(27)	Mr. Kishorymohan Ray	500
(28)	Mr. Hemchandra Gossain	37,500
(29)	Inglis Memorial Committee	1,500
(30)	Kumar Saratchandra Singh, of Paikpara	10,000
(31)	Mr. Srikumar Banerjee	500
(32)	Mr. Matilal Mallik	1,500
(33)	Sahebzada Md. Ahmed Shah	1,000
(34)	Mr. Charuchandra Chatterjee	1,500
(35)	Dr. N. Chakrabarti	1,500
(36)	P. C. Majumdar Memorial Committee	1,500
(37)	Manmathanath Bhattacharyya Memorial Committee	1,500
(38)	Maharaja of Darbhanga Memorial Committee	9,280
(39)	Maharaja of Kasimbazar	50,000
(40)	Mr. B. De	1,200
(41)	Mohinimohan Mitra Memorial Committee	500
(42)	Mr. Ramlal Kundu	1,000
(43)	Rai Narosinha Datta Bahadur Memorial Committee	2,500
(44)	Mr. S. P. Ray	2,000
(45)	Mr. Preonath Dutt	13,017
(46)	Rai Radhikaprasanna Mukerjee Bahadur Memorial Committee	1,400
(47)	Mr. Jagatbandhu Bose	6,000
(48)	Kumar Pramathanath Maliah of Searsole	5,000

		Rs.
(49)	Mr. Sarveswar Mitra	1,500
(50)	Mr. Bangendubhusan Mukerjee	500
(51)	Mr. Krishnachandra Ray	1,000
(52)	Mr. Kshitindranath Banerjee	9,000
(53)	Mr. Ajaynath Mitra and Mr. Asoknath Mitra	3,000
(54)	Mrs. Angelina Duke, Miss Hannah Guha and Miss Kitty Guha	1,000
(55)	Srimati Monmohini Dutt	1,000
(56)	Mr. Bireschandra Das	500
(57)	Sons of Mr. Thakurdas Kerr	3,000
(58)	Mr. Roby Dutt	10,000
(59)	Mr. Satischandra Mukherjee	500
(60)	Mrs. Amelia Gupta	2,000
(61)	Mr. Narayanchandra Sen	1,000
(62)	Mr. Suryyakanta Raichaudhuri	4,000
(63)	Rai Hemchandra Sarkar, Bahadur	2,000
(64)	Quinlan Memorial Committee	500
(65)	Soorjee Coomar Sarbadhikari Memorial Committee	3,600
(66)	Dwijendralal Roy Memorial Committee	7,500
(67)	Mohinimohan Ray Memorial Committee.	1,000
(68)	J. N. Dutt Memorial Committee	1,000
(69)	Mr. Nobokristo Kar	1,000
(70)	Assam Students' Conference	1,100
(71)	Rai B. N. Das, Bahadur	2,000
(72)	Messrs. Ismail Ibrahim Salehjee and Hashim Salehjee	5,000
(73)	Maharaja of Kasimbazar	4,000
(74)	Mr. Durgacharan Mookerjee	1,500
(75)	Mr. Satischandra Ray	12,000
(76)	Dr. A. Suhrawardy	1,000
(77)	Pedlar Memorial Committee	500
(78)	Mr. Haranchandra Banerjee	1,000
(79)	Mr. G. C. Ghosh	1,00,000
(80)	Mr. Upendrachandra Pal	1,040
(81)	Mr. Jatindranath Biswas	4,800
(82)	Mr. Nagendranarayan Raychaudhuri	500
(83)	Mr. Kshirodebihari Chatterjee	1,000

	Rs.
(84) Mr. Brajaballabh Datta	300
(85) Mr. Benoykrishna Gooptu	3,700
(86) Mr. Shamacharan Ganguli	3,000
(87) Adharchandra Mookerjee Memorial Committee	1,000
(88) Srimati Annapurna Debi	2,000
(89) Sir Asutosh Mookerjee	3,000
(90) Sir P. C. Ray	10,000

Statement II referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 186, showing the grants given by the Government of India or Bengal Government to the University of Calcutta from 1904-05 onwards.

Whether Imperial or Provincial.	Year of sanction or payment.	Amount of the grant.	Object on which to be expended.
		Rs	
Imperial ...	1904-05	1,80,000	Extension of the University's premises and construction of buildings.
Do. ...	1905-06	50,000	Completion of the projects for a University library, an examination hall and laboratories for testing the practical work of candidates in Science examinations.
Do. ...	1906-07	50,000	
Do. ...	1907-08	50,000	
Do. ...	1908-09	50,000	
Do. ...	1909-10	30,000	University building
Do. ...	1910-11	20,000	University building extension.
Do. ...	1911-12	10,000	University Law College library.
Do. ...	1912-13	3,00,000	Examination halls and Law hostel.
Do. ...	1912-13	1,00,000	Books and furniture for University library.
Do. ...	1912-13	8,00,000	Acquisition of the fish market and construction of buildings thereon.
Do. ...	1915-16	11,50,136	Construction of hostels for undergraduate students of affiliated colleges in Calcutta.
Provincial ...	1908-09	5,719	Printing of the reports of the University Inspectors on High Schools.
Do. ...	1910-11	5,000	University Law College library.

Home Industries Shop.

187. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the following information, regarding the Home Industries Shop in Corporation Street, Calcutta, year by year, for the last 5 years—

(*i*) cost of Establishment and House Rent;

(*ii*) the total amount of sales effected; and

(*iii*) the net profit or loss sustained (without taking into consideration the amount of the Government grant)?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what particular industry, if any, has received an impetus through the activities of the Home Industries Shop or the Home Industries Association and in what way?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The following industries are reported to have received an impetus through the activities of the Home Industries Association:—

Silk goods, ivory, bell-metal, Sikkim tweeds, horn buttons, *kushidas* and *saris* from Dacca, cloth (Lai champhies) from Tippera and *dosuti* and needle embroidery from Faridpur.

Statement giving the information regarding the Home Industries Shop in Corporation Street, Calcutta, referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 187.

YEAR.	Cost of establishment.	House rent.	Total sales.	* Profit on sales.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
July 1917—1918 (March) ..	8,245	2,269	21,176	4,469
1918-19	12,496	2,626	97,611	18,307
1919 20	15,276	4,202	67,851	14,487
1920-21	12,514	2,001	60,994	12,611
1921-22	12,013	1,969	40,724	4,291

* It is not possible to give accurately "Not profit or loss sustained (without taking into consideration the amount of the Government grant)" as the Association is a non-profit sharing concern and a considerable amount of its expenditure was made for propaganda and organisation work to make Home Industries popular.

Agricultural Officers touring beyond jurisdiction.

188. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be

pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a circular by the Director of Agriculture that no Agricultural Officer should go beyond his jurisdiction without the Director's permission?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of times any District Agricultural Officer went beyond his jurisdiction (and specially to Calcutta) in 1920-21 and in 1921-22—

(i) with the Director's permission, and

(ii) without the Director's permission?

(c) How much has been paid to these officers as travelling allowances for these journeys?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (a) No. A Deputy Director as a Controlling Officer is authorised to permit a District Agricultural Officer in his circle to go beyond his jurisdiction in the interests of the public service.

(b) (i), (ii) and (c) A statement is laid on the Library table.

Economy effected by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Public Works.

169. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Public Works be pleased to state what economies, if any, have been effected by him, since he assumed office, in the administration of the various Departments included in his portfolio?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The budgets of the Agricultural Department and of the Industries Department were scrutinized in September last, both by the Department of Agriculture and Industries and by the Finance Department. A sum of Rs. 16,000 was retrenched from these budgets and instructions were issued to all officers that rigid economy must be exercised and that no expenditure on new schemes could be sanctioned. As regards the estimates for the current year, these, as explained by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department in presenting the Budget in February last have been framed in a rigid and parsimonious economy, and do not do more than provide for the bare needs of the administration.

No economies have been effected in the Public Works Department as the Department is almost entirely of the nature of an agency for the the service of the other Departments of the Government. Its operations are governed by the requirements of those Departments and, although at the moment these operations may have been curtailed to some small extent, they will shortly be expanded and the Public Works Department must hold itself in readiness to meet requirements.

Rules regarding the recruitment by examination to certain services.

190. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: (*a*) With reference to Government notification No. 6798A of the 27th May in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th June, 1922, publishing provisional rules to regulate the recruitment by examination to some of the Provincial or other services in Bengal during the year 1922, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether public bodies were consulted before the aforesaid rules were adopted;

(*ii*) whether the consequences of clause 1, item 4, of Schedule III under rule 17 of the Notification were foreseen, *viz.*, those of the practical exclusion of all Art graduates from the examination;

(*iii*) whether there was any special reason for the restriction of the age-limit under rule 12 of the aforesaid Notification; and

(*iv*) the bases on which the allotment of nominations has been made in Schedule II under rule 10 of the said Notification?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of amending the rules—

(*i*) by putting in a few more alternative subjects under clause 1, item 4, in Schedule III;

(*ii*) by placing the age-limit at 21 years; or

(*iii*) by redistributing the allotment of nomination?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Government are unable to admit that the clause referred to will have the result which is suggested.

(*iii*) The limit under rule 12 was fixed after due consideration of the age-limits in the case of examinations for the Indian Civil Service and the Imperial Police. The object of Government was to allow every student a fair opportunity to try for any or all of these examinations, while avoiding the necessity of permitting an officer who had already accepted an appointment in one of the Provincial Services to appear subsequently in an Imperial Service examination.

(*iv*) The nominations were allotted after an examination of the number of honours and pass graduates from each college last year, being arranged in three groups roughly corresponding to the claims of colleges on this basis.

(*b*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) Government are not prepared to make any changes in the rules this year, but any suggestions made to the Appointment Department in the ordinary way will receive due consideration for subsequent occasions.

Demands for Grants.

34.—Agriculture.

Motions for reduction.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 25" being the provision for experiments for eradication of water-hyacinth be refused.

I will not take up the time of the Council by making a long speech on such a comparatively unimportant subject. I am free to admit that the water-hyacinth has become a regular menace to the waterways of Bengal and it is a very serious problem with which Government and the people are now confronted. But I do not think, however, that any experiments are necessary nor can be usefully made in order to eradicate water-hyacinth from the waterways of Bengal. In all earnestness and in all seriousness, I would say in the first place that simpler methods can be found and ought to be adopted in conjunction and in co-operation with the district boards. At one time I thought that there were certain departments of Government where officers get salary —fairly big salary—but do no work—for instance, the officers of the Agricultural Department, Industries Department, Fisheries Department—and if I may be permitted to add—also the River Police. They may be asked to take steps to eradicate water-hyacinth in the course of their tours throughout the province. In spite of spending Rs. 5,000, these officers may be asked to take proper steps to eradicate this nuisance. I do not think this money ought to be spent. On a matter of principle I oppose this demand, and I think that the money that has been raised by special taxation should not be spent on such a purpose.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: There is a mistaken impression that this demand also includes ordinary expenses for carrying on the routine business of the committee of inquiry appointed to suggest means to stop the spreading of water-hyacinth. The ordinary expenses for commissions and committees of inquiry are provided under major head No. 47-C. In the budget estimate for 1922-23, the sum of Rs. 30,000 was voted by the Council. The demand now made is an extraordinary item, evidently proposed by the committee to carry on experiments in this special line. Enough of a sum is provided in the budget to carry on experiment in the different experimental farms and laboratories belonging to the Agricultural Department. There are enough facilities at Manipur, Chinsura, Burirhat and elsewhere, where any experiment devised by the committee can be conveniently carried on without much expense. There is an Agricultural Botanist, one Assistant Agricultural Botanist and an Agricultural Chemist, Fibre Specialists and other expert officers, each with laboratories. They will gladly

assist the committee whenever necessary. If the Council now go on providing a separate establishment, a separate laboratory, I do not know where it would end. I do not see the necessity of starting a fresh laboratory for the purpose—in fact the sum granted (Rs. 30,000) under 47-C is more than sufficient to cover all legitimate expenses of this and all other committees of inquiry during the year. But as the Minister is inclined to provide some additional fund for the committee, a reasonable sum to the extent of Rs. 2,000 may be voted. My honest belief is that if the municipalities and the district boards enforce their by-laws of compelling the proprietors of weedy tanks and low-lying plots to keep them free from this weed, the disappearance of this noxious vegetation would be a question of six months—committees or no committees.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I beg to oppose these two motions and my reason is this. The district boards and municipalities have been at a loss to find out how to put a stop to this growing menace of water-hyacinth. My friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, suggests that the river police should be put to this task. But my friend does not know the character of water-hyacinth. This water-hyacinth cannot be destroyed. We have taken pains to destroy it. We have burnt it down, but if a single germ is left, within two or three months the whole pond becomes full of water-hyacinth. So I do not know how to destroy it. A committee was appointed to find out means, and the members are scientific experts, and I understand that this money is required to find out the best means of destroying water-hyacinth. Personally speaking, I should say that even if Rs. 10,000 is necessary, we ought to vote for that. We have tried out best, but we could not do anything. We can only hope that some method may be found out by the committee which will put an end to the menace.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: It is an irony of fate that the Department of Agriculture has received the attention of two gentlemen who are residents of the town. Those who live in the mufassal know much better about this water-hyacinth than those who live in the town. I was travelling from Mymensingh to Dacca the other day and I saw that all the water along the route through which the trains run was full of water-hyacinth and is it the business of the river police to cope with this evergrowing pest? I think there must be some expert to find out the means of eradicating the germs of this pest, and therefore, I think, the experiment with regard to destroying this pest are essentially necessary and the provision of Rs. 5,000 is not a very large amount. I am sorry that there are members who think that this amount is unnecessary. I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I must remind the Council that about a year ago they

passed a resolution recommending the appointment of a committee to consider the ways and means of eradicating the water-hyacinth. A committee was appointed, and Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose kindly consented to preside over it. It is on the recommendations of that committee that we have provided Rs. 5,000 for experiments to ascertain the best means of destroying the plant. I need not enlarge upon the damage which is being caused to the waterways of Bengal, to the public health of the province, and in large tracts, also to the agricultural conditions. The sum in question is merely a trifle in comparison with the damage that is being done by this pest, and I hope the Council will show their confidence in Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose's committee by rejecting this motion and voting the grant which they have recommended.

Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq's motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur had a similar motion which was put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 17,000 for experimenting with tube-wells under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 26," be reduced to Rs. 8,500.

There seems to be an idea abroad that nobody in this country knew anything about tube-wells before Mr. Scott began sinking them for the mill people. The experiments with these wells began over thirty years ago. Without going into the past history in detail, this Council should recommend to the Hon'ble Ministers and the heads of the departments who are busy with the suggestion of the experiment to carefully digest the information of experiments set forth in the two editions of the pamphlet styled "Improved System of Boring for Agricultural and Drinking Purposes," by Rai Bahadur Pundit Matadur Sukul, a retired Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department. The last edition was published in 1910. Numerous instances of tube-wells sunk by him—down to 200 feet—in Rampur-Boalia, Nator, Jalpaiguri, Balurghat (at Dinajpur), besides Sylhet, Sibsagar and other places in Assam, are enumerated in that pamphlet. I wonder whether the authorities now concerned with the asking for this demand for Rs. 17,000—for fresh experiments exactly at similar places, *viz.*, Manipur, Chinsura and Berhampur—have been profited by the past experience. I do not think the Council should vote any sum for fresh experiments until the experiments done in the past—10 to 30 years back—are fully discussed.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The importance of irrigation, especially in Western Bengal, cannot be over-estimated. One of the cheapest and most efficient means of irrigation is the tube-well. It is not, however, a system

that can be universally adopted. Its efficiency depends on a supply of artesian water, and the existence of such a supply can only be definitely ascertained by experiment. There are three tracts of land which appear likely to yield a good supply of artesian water. I need not enter into the details which are in the printed note. I trust the Council will agree with me in thinking it important to give a proper trial to this cheap and effective method of irrigation and will reject the motions.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion, standing in the name of Raja Maniloll Singh Roy, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 17,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Agricultural Experiments—Scheme 26,' be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 11,800 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 27,' be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 30,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 28,' being lump provision for farm schools, be refused."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,900 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 34," for the appointment of an Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the Burdwan Division, be refused.

As we are short of time, I will leave it to my hon'ble friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, to make his speech. I simply move my motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: This is a proposal to make an already top-heavy department more top-heavy still, and if this system goes on, the department of co-operation may come to grief one day too soon. Sir, I have some experience in co-operative work, having been unofficially connected with this department for four or five years. I hope the Council will excuse me if I go into certain details in order to make my position clear. There are three classes of organizations in the co-operative department—(1) the village societies, (2) the central co-operative banks, and (3) the federation banks in Calcutta. Now, the village societies are looked after by Inspectors, and their accounts are audited by co-operative auditors. The central banks are inspected by Assistant Registrars. During the last few years the increase in the number of village societies has no doubt been great, but the increase in the number of central banks has not been proportionately so. So I cannot for the life of me understand why there is such a hurry about an extra staff to supervise the central banks.

A few months ago, there was a proposal to appoint an Assistant Registrar for the Chittagong Division. When I objected to this in

the Agricultural Standing Committee, I was told that the necessity was great the work was suffering and that the appointment could not be delayed. But what was the result? Government in a hurry appointed an Assistant Registrar but they did not provide him with an establishment, and I do not see how an Assistant Registrar, in his solitary dignity, could carry on the work that was thrust upon him. As soon as this Assistant Registrar was appointed, the Assistant Registrar of Dacca went on leave, and this new Assistant Registrar of Chittagong had to do the work of two Assistant Registrars. As a matter of fact, I think the Assistant Registrar of Dacca is on leave still and that his work is being carried on by the Divisional Auditor. This is how the Assitant Registrar's work is being carried on. The central banks of Bengal are managed by a body of Directors consisting of the educated and the leading men of district and subdivisional towns, and I am sure that they do not require such frequent supervision, such careful supervision, such extraordinary supervision as is done by so many Assistant Registrars. I can tell the House that in 1916, there was only one Registrar and one Personal Assistant to manage the co-operative work of the whole province. Since then we have had a number of Assistant Registrars, and in addition to them we have got a Deputy Registrar also. It seems that because there is a Commissioner for each division, therefore, there must be an Assistant Registrar for every division in Bengal. I confess, I do not understand this logic. Moreover, Government have appointed a committee for considering the possibility of abolishing the post of Commissioners, and it is safe to infer that in the near future the Commissionerships will be abolished and their divisions will go. Following that analogy, where will the Assistant Registrars be then? I am sure this division of area is absolutely a futile division.

There is another point. I do not understand why Deputy Magistrates should be taken in as Assistant Registrars. I do not know whether executive experience is of any value in the co-operative department. They have got to learn the work and taxpayers' money is spent on teaching them co-operative work. I do not understand why Deputy Magistrates should get Rs. 600 *plus* Rs. 100 to learn the work. Surely the work can be carried on by the departmental men. They know the work and it has been proved that they can manage the work efficiently there again, what is the good of having seven officers at the top? Therefore I say that it is an absolutely useless proposal. Of course, if it is a proposal to bring in a particular officer, who has to be provided with a soft job, then I have got nothing to say; but if it is to manage the work of the Co-operative Department, I must emphatically protest against it.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In rising to support Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, I would like to draw the attention of the House

to certain facts and figures. Under this head "34-C.—Co-operative Societies," the United Provinces has budgeted Rs. 1,22,000, Bombay Rs. 4,20,000, and Bengal Rs. 4,46,000 this year. Out of this sum, *i.e.*, Rs. 4,46,000, only Rs. 6,580 goes by way of grants to Co-operative Societies and the rest is spent for establishment charges, allowances, etc. There can therefore be no doubt that this department is as over-staffed as it is costly. Moreover, there are at present six gazetted officers in this department. Under the circumstances, I do not understand why each of them cannot be placed in charge of a division. Why cannot the Deputy Registrar be placed in charge of the lesser of the two divisions and the Assistant Registrar be left in charge of the Presidency Division, especially when we know that the Burdwan Division has got a very small number of Co-operative Societies—only 875, according to the report of 1920-21. There is, of course, some reason for Dacca and Chittagong to have two different officers, because between them they have 2,350 Co-operative Societies, and leaving Chittagong apart, Dacca alone has got 1,640 societies. So there was some reason for relieving the Assistant Registrar in charge of those two divisions of a part of his work and appointing a special officer for Chittagong. But so far as the Presidency and the Burdwan Divisions are concerned, there being only 1,945 societies, two high officers for these two divisions are not at all necessary. For if it is seriously maintained that 875 societies in the Burdwan Division or 1,070 societies in the Presidency Division require a separate Assistant Registrar, then we shall soon come to hear that the Rajshahi Division, with its 1,395 or 1,400 societies cannot do without two such officers. Further, I cannot understand why it is necessary to appoint an Assistant Registrar for every Commissioner's division without any regard to the number of societies to look after. Moreover, why must Deputy Magistrates be appointed to these posts? Why, if at all an Assistant Registrar is to be appointed, cannot an officer with lower pay—a Sub-Deputy Collector—be taken? This may be well tried at least in the Burdwan Division, which has got such a comparatively small number of Co-operative Societies. To effect retrenchment, Madras has exactly done the same thing. I would urge this point on the attention of the House—the employment of lower grade officers as Assistant Registrars in place of Deputy Magistrates, if Assistant Registrars are really indispensable.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: As the time is very short, I will be brief. Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has simply moved his motion, but he left the matter of speaking to Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, and very rightly too. Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq once remarked that official memory is very short, but he probably will be surprised to learn that non-official memory is getting much shorter still. Only last year Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta congratulated Lord Ronaldshay when this scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, adding that the scheme of appointing Assistant Registrars was a very excellent one.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I offer a word of explanation?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): You can explain after he has finished.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: In fact, even if the appointment of Deputy Registrar was specially referred to and when this whole scheme in which the posts of Assistant Registrars were sanctioned, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was so much pleased that he was the first to congratulate His Excellency, and that only in the year 1921. I do not know what circumstances have since then occurred which have led him to change his opinion. He mentioned facts and figures of 1916, but I do not know what other additional facts have occured to make him change his opinion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: [The member said something which was inaudible at the Reporters' table.]

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: This is not a new proposal. Up to last year there were only three Assistant Registrars for the whole province. In 1920, the Secretary of State sanctioned the appointment of an Assistant Registrar for each Commissioner's division. Money, however, was not available and the matter had to be held in abeyance. Last year, it became possible to fill one of the two new posts by abolishing the special Assistant Registrar for Industrial Societies, and an Assistant Registrar was posted to the Chittagong Division. But the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions still remain in the charge of one officer. The rapid development of the co-operative movement, however, has made further delay impossible. A standard of work for Assistant Registrars has been laid down by the Co-operative Committee. That standard is enormously exceeded by the work that the Assistant Registrars of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have to perform, and even when a separate Assistant Registrar is appointed, I think I am correct in saying that each officer will have to perform the maximum amount of work which the Committee thought it possible for an Assistant Registrar to perform. If the principle of official control of the co-operative movement is accepted (and I do not think the necessity for it will be questioned at the present stage of co-operative development), then, Sir, Government must see that that control is efficiently exercised. In the present case, Government and the Secretary of State considered that this new appointment was amply justified in 1920. After two years, the case for the appointment is even stronger, and the only alternative to its creation is a curtailment of the activities of the Co-operative Department. That is a course which I should be loath to adopt, and I am sure the Council will agree in this. I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I ask whether the Assistant Registrars inspect central banks or village societies?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: They inspect village societies, but I cannot say off-hand whether they inspect also the central banks.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Alcy, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Babu Bhismadev.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 33 and the Noes 39, the motion was lost.

The time allotted for the discussion of the demands on "34.—Agriculture" having expired, the following motions were put and lost:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 10,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 37,' being provision for

establishment under the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chittagong and Burdwan Division, be refused."

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 37,' being provision for establishment under the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chittagong and Burdwan Divisions, be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 37,' being provision for establishment under the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chittagong and Burdwan Divisions, be reduced to Rs. 500 only."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 10,000 under head '34.—Agriculture—Co-operative Credit—Scheme 37,' being provision for establishment under the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chittagong and Burdwan Divisions, be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 1,470 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 38,' being additional provision for house-rent and allowances under Co-operative Credit, be refused."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '34.—Agriculture,' be refused."

The motion, that the demand for expenditure under head "34.—Agriculture" as settled in Council be granted, was then put and agreed to.

35.—Industries.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I move that a sum of Rs. 2,33,536 be granted under the head "Industries (Transferred)." The sum provides for an instalment of the schemes on which the Department of Industries has been working for the past year and a half. Full details have been given in the printed notes and I need only notice briefly the more important items.

First we propose to investigate the possibilities of the match-making industry in Bengal. We have been promised the co-operation of the Forest Department in our inquiries and I believe that the investigation is likely to lead to practical results of considerable value. The sum of Rs. 25,000 for the development of industries is required for giving demonstrations at the various exhibitions annually held in the province and for experiments and researches. Then it is proposed to revise the pay of the staff of the Government Commercial Institute in accordance with the recent revision of pay of the Education Department, to which the members of the staff formerly belonged. In accordance with a

resolution passed by this Council, I have provided for the provincialization of the Pabna Technical School. It is also to meet the wishes of the Council expressed in resolutions which they have passed that I have made provision for two technical schools, two industrial schools and two commercial schools. Provision has also been made for two technical scholarships in order to meet to some extent a resolution on the subject passed by the Council. Then there is provision for increasing the amount available for grants-in-aid to technical and weaving schools. I trust the Council will show its approval of the lines on which the Industries Department is working by voting this demand in full.

Motions for reduction.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of a sum of Rs. 4,000 for investigation of match industry under head "35.—Industries—Scheme 6, " be refused.

This proposal for further inquiry into the question of the match industry is really a very interesting one. I find from the note attached to the supplementary budget, that the information regarding this industry available at present is meagre, but I find it is voluminous. It rather makes us pause as to whether we should take the remark seriously. Since my infancy I have been hearing of investigations on this industry in India. Within the last few years we have heard a great deal regarding this industry. As I have already said, the information is not meagre and another investigation is not necessary. I also refer to the report of the Industrial Commission. Several monographs have been published by the Government of India and the Forest Department. So I leave the point to be decided by the Council, whether any further investigation is necessary. I will, however, make a few remarks about the expert who is going to be appointed. It has been stated here in this Council and also outside that very often we create an appointment, or rather we get a certain man to create it, and then we try to find justification for the appointment. Again and again, we have heard in this Council that such and such a man had been selected for a particular appointment long before that appointment was created and long before the Council had budgeted for the same. Here we have an instance of that.

On inquiry I learn that the gentleman selected was at first appointed as an assistant to Mr. P. C. Ray, the expert in the Bande Mataram Match Factory at Tollygunge started by the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose—lately owned by Mr. Sailendra Mitra. The proprietor was compelled to close down the factory as it was not working well. Later this gentleman went to Rangoon and Mandalay to work in the match factories in those places. The factories are still working, but the gentleman

is in none of those places. Later the Government of Gwalior commissioned him to England to buy some match-manufacturing machinery. The whole commission collapsed while the gentleman was in England. Now I understand the gentleman is carrying on importing business. Mr. P. C. Ray, the gentleman under whom the nominated expert was an assistant, is still in Calcutta and is starting a match factory at Khulna with a capital of Rs. 10 lakhs. In fact there are immense materials in the Government reports and memoirs—no expert is necessary for fresh investigation. Government should find out means how to help the business by granting concessions, etc., and for that the services of an expert for fresh investigation is not necessary.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Applications have from time to time been received by the Department of Industries for advice in regard to the manufacture of matches in Bengal. Very little information on the subject is, however, available at present. Such information, as we have, justifies the belief that the industry has a great possibility in this province, but before the Department of Industries is in a position to advise on the subject, a full inquiry is necessary. It is therefore proposed to employ Mr. A. P. Ghose to carry out a complete survey of the technical and commercial aspects of the question. Mr. Ghose possesses high testimonials as a match-manufacturing expert, and he has had practical experience of the industry in Sweden, Germany, France, England and Japan. A very important part of the investigation will be an inquiry into the existence in Bengal of suitable kinds of wood, and in this branch of the investigation, the Forest Department have undertaken to give Mr. Ghose all possible assistance. Mr. Ghose carried out a similar investigation in the Gwalior State and submitted a comprehensive and valuable report. The sum involved is only Rs. 4,000 and I ask the Council to vote this money and reject the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head "35.—Industries—Scheme 7," being an additional provision in lump for development of industries, be refused.

I am personally convinced that in return for Rs. 25,000 not even 25 pice worth of work will be done. But it will be impossible for me to convince the House that this demand should be refused. My experience also tells me that it is no good adducing arguments, facts or logic, but mysterious influences are at work and canvassing carries the day. It is useless for me to make any speech.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: This sum of Rs. 25,000 is required mainly for the purpose of giving demonstrations in the various exhibitions which are annually held in Bengal. These demonstrations are much appreciated,

and I think that if we were compelled to stop them, the decision would be received with general regret. Money is also required to enable the Director of Industries and his officers, such as the Industrial Chemist and the Industrial Engineer, to carry on preliminary investigations with regard to the possibilities of new industries. No money is available for these purposes at present, as the whole of the grant under this head in the original budget was ear-marked for preliminary expenses in connection with the British Empire Exhibition. It is clear that without a grant of this kind, the utility of the department will be very seriously curtailed. I, therefore, ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendar Lal.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Salam Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 18 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

The following motions, standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 65,000 under head '35.—Industries—Scheme 13,' be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 22,046 under head '35.—Industries—Scheme 16,' be refused.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN being absent, the following motion standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 2,000 under head '35.—Industries—provision for laboratory accommodation for research work of the Fisheries Department—Scheme 24,' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 2,000 for a fishery laboratory in Calcutta University Buildings, under head "35.—Industries—Scheme 24," be refused.

The Fisheries Department is still without its legitimate head. The officer who has the direction in his hands is stationed at Dacca. There is one Superintendent who is on probation and is constantly out on tour. There is one temporary Superintendent who has no scientific training, and my information is that the Hon'ble the Minister has decided not to make him permanent in the post. The remaining assistant has no education and does not require any laboratory. Until there is some settled policy, it is useless to build a laboratory. In my opinion the Council should wait until it can learn from the new Director where and in what way he wants the laboratory fitted up. I am told that there is a laboratory fitted up on board the steamer belonging to the department; if that be so, any temporary work that the single Superintendent may find time to do, may be done at that laboratory.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 2,000 under head "35.—Industries—Scheme 24," be reduced by Rs. 200.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

This industrial head in itself is absolutely unnecessary. Fry are sold in abundance in the mufassal. Therefore, it is quite unnecessary to provide Rs. 2,000 for this demand. The previous speakers have dealt with this problem in its entirety. I hope, therefore, that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge will agree with me that in these days of financial crisis, Rs. 200 should be reduced from this item.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Fisheries Department in Bengal has been seriously handicapped by two circumstances; first, by the want of a permanent head of the department, and secondly, by the absence of a properly equipped laboratory in which the scientific work of the department can be carried on. Hitherto, by the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Indian Museum, some accommodation has been found for our laboratory in that building, but owing to the expansion of work in the Zoological Survey, it is no longer possible to accommodate the laboratory there. I am informed that there is no temporary laboratory on any steamer and that the Rai Bahadur is misinformed. They are therefore without any

laboratory of any kind. The authorities of the Calcutta University have, however, kindly come to our assistance by placing at our disposal a room in the Science College at Ballygunge. The estimate for apparatus and fittings is a small one, it has been carefully examined by Dr. Bruhl, Registrar of the University, and a gentleman of wide experience in such matters. As the Council has agreed to the appointment of a qualified Director of Fisheries, it is essential that he should have a properly equipped laboratory at his disposal. I therefore ask the Council to reject these motions.

The motions were then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '35.—Industries,' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 2,33,536 be granted for expenditure under head "35.—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

37.—Miscellaneous Department.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr): I move that a sum of Rs. 6,784 be granted for expenditure under head "37.—Miscellaneous Departments."

This demand covers three items; two of them are small, one is for the re-writing of the gazetteer statistics in consequence of the census, which is obviously necessary, and the other is for a small payment of Rs. 984 to the Port Commissioners for the statistics which they compile for us. This sum is required because the Port Commissioners, like other employers, have found it necessary to raise the pay of the clerks whom they employ on this duty.

The third item, the most important, is the demand for the pay of an Assistant Inspector of Factories who will be an Indian. I have explained in this Council before that under the Factories Act, which came into force on the 1st July, the labours of the Factory Inspecting staff are very greatly increased. Both the number of factories for inspection have increased and the details to be looked to in the course of inspection have also become more complicated. We have received sanction from the Secretary of State to employ three additional Factory Inspectors on this account. Before we wrote to the Secretary of State we tried to recruit an Indian officer in this country, but we failed to do so because this is new work for Indians, and naturally it is very difficult to find suitable men, so we asked the Secretary of State if he could find us a suitable Indian in England. The Secretary of State also failed, and suggested that we should make further efforts in India to get an Indian before we definitely decided on having a European as the

third officer. We have recently heard of a likely Indian whom the Chief Inspector of Factories thinks will be suitable, and we are anxious to take this opportunity of introducing an Indian into the department. That is the reason for the demand which I am making and I hope the Council will accept it.

Motions for reduction.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,800 under head "31.—Miscellaneous Departments—Scheme 1," for salary and allowance of an Assistant Indian Inspector of Factories, be refused.

I move this motion on principle and do not take into account whether an Indian is going to be appointed or not. Hitherto, *i.e.*, up to March, 1922, there were only three Inspectors of Factories and in the principal budget for 1922-23, there was an additional provision for three more Inspectors. I moved at that time also for the refusal of that extra demand. The reply given by the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr at that time was that under the new Indian Factories Act the work had become so very heavy that it was simply impossible for three Inspectors to cope with the increased work and an additional staff of three more Inspectors would be required. That was the only reason advanced and on that very ground also this supplementary demand for a fourth additional Inspector was put forward, *i.e.*, on the ground of more work owing to the passage of the Indian Factories Amendment Act. We do not know how many more Inspectors will be necessary, but this much is certain, that if it is due to the passing of the said Act, if it is due to the increase of work caused by this enactment of the Government of India, then certainly all the provinces must be affected by it. But we see even after the passing of this Act, Madras has appointed only two Inspectors of Factories, one Inspector on Rs. 400 to Rs. 700, and one Assistant Inspector on Rs. 350 to Rs. 450. It may perhaps be said that Madras is a "benighted" province and that inspection work will be much heavier here. But certainly it cannot be heavier than in Bombay—

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry): Why not?

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Why not? Because in Bombay there are more factories. I may refer here to Table 5, page 15, of the "Statistics of British India," Volume I; there you will find that in Bombay there are 874 industrial establishments, whereas in Bengal there are only 672. And what has Bombay done? In this year's budget Bombay has only provided for the retention of two temporary Inspectors, whereas we see that here in Bengal provision has been made for four additional Inspectors. There is also

another thing to be remembered, *viz.*, that, of the three Inspectors of Factories appointed before, two at least are on long leave and furlough. Unless and until they come back and work for some time with the three additional Inspectors provided for in the principal budget, how can we ascertain that it is impossible for even six Inspectors (three old officers and three new officers) to cope with the work, and that an addition of one more Inspector is urgently necessary? On these grounds, I move that this demand be refused.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 2,800 for an Assistant Indian Inspector of Factories under head "37.—Miscellaneous—Scheme I," be reduced by Rs. 700.

Those of my friends who have gone through the notes appended to this budget must have noticed that Rs. 700 has been budgeted for the purpose of a motor-car allowance of Rs. 100 for seven months. I am not taking any exception to the appointment of an Indian Assistant Inspector of Factories on Rs. 300 a month for which the additional Rs. 2,100 has been provided, but I do object to this motor-car allowance of Rs. 100 per month to an officer whose monthly pay is Rs. 300. Sir John Kerr has very lucidly explained the necessity for this appointment, and I accept his statement as quite reliable, but I ask him to consider in all seriousness whether a man on Rs. 300 a month is expected to keep a motor-car. Then the question arises whether he can do without a motor-car. There are factories, I understand, in Calcutta and round about the city. I cannot understand why it should be unreasonable to ask this gentleman to inspect some factories daily, and why it should be impossible for him to do this. He may divide his working hours and days among the different factories within his jurisdiction. If the work be properly arranged, an ordinary carriage for travelling ought to be enough for this officer. In any case, it strikes me as very extraordinary that an officer on Rs. 300 should be given Rs. 100, which is 33⅓ per cent. of his pay, for the upkeep of a motor-car. This is the reason why I take exception to this demand.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri objects to any provision being made for this officer on the ground of comparison with other provinces. The comparison with Madras, I think, may be dismissed at once. Madras is not an industrial province on the same scale as Bengal, and Madras town is not an industrial city on the same scale as Calcutta. The reference to Bombay is more to the point, but I find it very difficult to believe that Bombay is doing its factory inspection work with only two temporary Inspectors, which, I understand, is what Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri says. It is always very difficult to ascertain facts from the budget of another province without having somebody who can explain the entries, and I think there must be some mistake about the figure which Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri

quoted, or possibly the entry regarding the permanent factory inspection staff will be found in some other part of the budget. Anyhow I submit that in Bengal the staff which we propose to employ is fully justified. Under the new Act, every factory which employs 20 people has to be inspected, whereas under the old Act the limit was 50, and the new Act also brings in all the tea-gardens in Bengal and Assam. I mention that because it is perhaps not always realised that our factory staff work in Assam also; the Assam Government, of course, contribute to the cost, but it should be remembered that the Bengal factory staff is responsible for Assam as well. We are satisfied, on the figures which the Chief Inspector of Factories has given us, that we cannot get along with less than six inspectors. It is perfectly true that two of our Inspectors are on leave, but the reason is that their leave was long overdue; they had no leave, I believe, practically all through the war, so directly we got these two new Inspectors we had to allow the old men to go on leave.

Then Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur questioned the necessity for a motor-car allowance. He said that these Inspectors might go about in an ordinary carriage; I do not know whether he meant an ordinary third class *ticca gharry*, but I can assure him that that would not be an economical arrangement. This officer, although his initial pay is small, will have important and responsible duties and it will save an enormous amount of his time if he has a small motor-car in which he can get out to the factories along the banks of the Hooghly. I am sure that if we expect our Inspectors to go about in third class *ticca gharries* we should want not six Inspectors, but twenty. A motor-car is an enormous saving of time and energy; a small car such as this Inspector would use can be maintained at a cost of Rs. 100 a month. I trust that what I have said will satisfy the Council that our demand is justifiable.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I accept the statement of the Hon'ble Member and beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '37.—Miscellaneous Departments,' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 6,784 be granted for expenditure under head "37.—Miscellaneous Departments" was then put and agreed to.

40.—Exchange on transactions with London.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 71,116 be granted for expenditure under head "40.—Exchange on transactions with London."

This item is what would be called merely consequential if we were dealing with the clauses of a Bill. For convenience of calculation, pounds are converted into rupees in the main budget at the rate of Rs. 10 per pound or 2s. to the rupee under all the main heads. Unfortunately, the exchange is not 2s. but about 1s. 4d. to the rupee, and we have to allow for the difference between this 2s. rate and the actual rate of exchange under the head with which I am now dealing. This year, following the Government of India, we have assumed that exchange will be 1s. 4d. to the rupee on the average throughout the year, and the sum for which we now ask allows for the difference in respect of purchases in England between the assumed 2s. rate under the major heads and the actual exchange rate. In these supplementary estimates, the loss occurs under three heads, two of which relate to scholarships which are payable in England, and the third relates to the cost of imported linotype and other machines for the press. These items appear in the High Commissioner's budget later on, and if we pass them there, it will be necessary to make this provision on account of exchange. If they are not passed in the High Commissioner's budget, this exchange expenditure will go out. In these circumstances, I think it would be best to postpone the discussion of these items until we come to the High Commissioner's budget. If any item in that budget does not go through, we shall of course not be able to spend the corresponding amount under this head.

Motions for reduction.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I thought that this was a provision for exchange on transactions with London, but it is more complicated than I thought it. This is a matter which I cannot very well understand (Laughter), so I think it best to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for expenditure under head '40.—Exchange on transactions with London,' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 71,116 be granted for expenditure under head "40.—Exchange on transactions with London" was then put and agreed to.

41.—Civil Works.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move that a sum of Rs. 2,42,699 be granted for expenditure under "41.—Civil Works."

The details of the supplementary demand will be found on pages 312 to 335 of the printed statement.

The grant is intended to meet expenditure on works required by the following departments:—

	Rs.
Judicial Department	66,419
Agriculture and Industries Department ...	13,495
Medical Department	151,898
Political Department ..	3,461

While to meet establishment charges

Public Works Department require ...	7,426

Motions for reduction.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 7,970 under head "41.—Civil Works—Civil Buildings—Scheme 2," be refused.

This is in connection with an electric record lift in the Appellate Side of the High Court. Since I sent in my motion, I had a talk on the subject with the Hon'ble Member in charge and Mr. Duval, and they have assured me that instead of having an electric lift, they are going to have one which can be worked by hand, and that this will cost much less. In the circumstances, I desire to withdraw my motion.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I have a similar motion and beg leave to move that the demand for a sum of Rs. 7,970 for a record lift under head "41.—Civil Works—Civil Buildings—Scheme 2," be refused.

Unlike the Raja Sahib, I am not convinced that there is such an urgent necessity for an electric lift for moving records in the High Court. It is not for taking up Judges and other members the 90 steps of the High Court. This is a proposal seriously made before this Council so soon after the passing of the taxation Bills to spend Rs. 8,000 for the purpose of a lift for removing records which might easily be carried by men on their shoulders. Ninety steps is a height to which it is not difficult to carry a load. Most of us live in three or four storied houses, and we have not been able to provide ourselves with lifts and have

scarcely thought of lifts for moving things about in our houses. What has really puzzled me most is that this money, which has been obtained after the passing of new taxation Bills, is to be spent for purposes like this. Nobody denies that a lift is an improvement, but the question is whether that improvement is absolutely necessary and so urgent that it should not be delayed, but must have precedence over other things and that it must be passed in the first budget immediately after the passing of these taxation Bills. I was one of those who voted for these Bills, but if I knew that a large portion of the amount would be spent on such doubtful purposes, I would not have given my vote. I am rather surprised to find that when there are so many other useful purposes to which this money can be diverted, we are seriously expected to accept a proposal to spend Rs. 8,000 for a lift for records.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): The necessity for a lift for the carrying of the records from one floor of the High Court, to another, has been felt by the High Court for some time. A demand like this has been made upon us from time to time, but the scheme could not be carried out for want of funds all these years. I understand that the record room of the High Court is on the top floor which is not very easy to reach, and peons are employed in carrying these records to the top floor of the High Court, which necessarily causes great delay and waste of time and energy. It is for this reason that it is necessary that there should be a lift for the carriage of the records. We put in this demand in the hope that the Council would see its way of providing the High Court with the proper means of conveying their records from the different parts of the Court to the record room. But we are quite ready to consider whether some other arrangements cannot be made, and we assured Raja Maniloll Singh Roy, and are prepared to assure Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur that we shall consider if an electric lift is really necessary, and whether some other cheaper arrangement cannot be tried first. I think we shall be able to persuade the High Court to accept some arrangement which will cost less, something which can be worked by hand, and the cost of which will be very much less, say Rs. 1,000. I give this assurance that I shall move the High Court in the matter. In the meantime, I hope the Council will allow the demand to remain for the present, and pass it, and we shall see what we can do to reduce the cost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Member, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: After I sent in the motion, I was told by Mr. Duval that there are roads passing through the Judge's Court compound used by the public, but as the roads are not public thoroughfares, the Municipality do not provide lights and that it is for

the convenience of the public that lights are proposed to be put up. I therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The following motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: "That the demand of Rs. 3,950 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 4,' for electric lights in the Judge's Court compound at Alipore, be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 3,950 under head '41.—Civil Works—Civil Buildings—Scheme 4,' for electric lights in the Judge's Court compound at Alipore, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 3,950 under head "41.—Civil Works—Scheme 4," for electric lights in the Judge's Court compound at Alipore, be reduced by Rs. 200

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

The demand for Rs. 3,950 is not a demand of a nature that should be granted in these days of financial stringency. The Retrenchment Committee will sit shortly and it will be wiser to await its report. Sir, I have put in nine motions under the head "41.—Civil Works," none of which refuses any demand *in toto*, but only wants to reduce something, which, to my mind, appears excessive. The money which will be thus saved may be utilised in a nobler cause than this. Take, for instance, sanitation, education, public health, etc. Such reductions have been made in several cases in this Council. The principle which obtains in the Imperial Legislative Assembly should be followed in the Bengal Legislative Council. The principle followed there, as I have once said on a previous occasion, is to reduce 5 or 6 per cent. from the lump grant under each head, irrespective of any merit or consideration. Why not do the same thing here? Why not cut 5 or 6 per cent. from each individual demand for grant, so that some economies might be effected in this way? If that is done, there would be no waste of time, energy and labour. There would be no heated discussion in the Council resulting in nothing. Sir, if the Hon'ble Member assures me that he would give careful consideration to my proposals, I am prepared to withdraw the motion. If he assures me that he would strain every nerve to effect material economies in all directions, under his portfolio, not to speak of this item alone, then, and then only, I shall keep quiet. Otherwise I shall have to come to the conclusion that as our hands are tied, and our mouth sealed, every effort to economise in all directions is fruitless.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I really could not follow the Shah Sahib on what principle he wanted to reduce this demand by Rs. 200. We got an estimate from our expert adviser that Rs. 3,950 was necessary for putting up electric installation in the Judge's Court compound, and I do not see how we can ask the contractors to accept Rs. 200 less than the estimated amount. I do not think we can accept the Shah Sahib's motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 5,115 under '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 8,' for the additions to, and alterations in, the court building of the Satkhira Munsifi, Khulna, be reduced by Rs. 255."

"That the demand of Rs. 7,640 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 9,' for the construction of a combined witness shed and sale-room at Brahmanbaria, Tippera, be reduced by Rs. 380."

"That the demand of Rs. 6,200 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 10,' for the construction of a witness shed for the Civil and Criminal Courts at Bhola, Bakarganj, be reduced by Rs. 310.'"

"That the demand of Rs. 5,000 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 12,' for the accommodation for the Additional Subordinate Judge at Sonarpur, Noakhali, be reduced by Rs. 250."

"That the demand of Rs. 6,956 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 13,' for the additions to, and alterations in, the residences of the three Munsifs at Satkhira, Khulna, be reduced by Rs. 346."

"That the demand of Rs. 6,600 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 15,' for the construction of a pucca wall round the land acquired for the technical school, Calcutta, be reduced by Rs. 330."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,600 under head "41.—Civil Works—Civil Buildings—Scheme 15," for the construction of a pucca wall round the land acquired for the technical school, Calcutta, be reduced by Rs. 100.

This proposal for a nominal reduction is meant to protest against the principle of this particular technical school. It may seem strange, at first sight, that I should oppose a grant which means the establishment of a useful school like a technical institution, but I am sure the Council will be of my way of thinking when they come to know what sort of a technical institution we are going to have.

Let me explain, in as few words as I can, what this proposed technical school is to be like. There are some large industrial firms in and around Calcutta, *e.g.*, Messrs. Burn & Co., John King & Co., Jessop & Co., East Indian Railway, Balmer Lawrie & Co., and so forth. They have a large number of apprentices who serve in their workshops. These

apprentices are lacking in theoretical training, and it is to the interest of these big industrial firms to give their apprentices the necessary theorical training in subjects such as drawing, mathematics, applied mechanics, building construction, and so forth. Now, is it to the interest of the country at large to spend Rs. 16 lakhs of capital expenditure and Rs. 1¼ lakhs recurring grant for the benefit of these rich firms These industrial firms have recognised their enomalous position in this respect, and are training their own men, in a school called the Calcutta Evening School. The only help that the Government give them now is an annual grant of Rs. 2,000. From that Rs. 2,000 a year we are going to jump to a capital expenditure of Rs. 16 lakhs and a recurring grant of Rs. 1¼ lakhs.

The history of the school is perfectly simple. There was a great demand in the country for the establishment of a technological institute in 1912 for training men for the development of industries. A committee was appointed to work out a scheme and a scheme of Rs. 10 lakhs was drawn up. But Government thought that Rs. 10 lakhs was too much and they apparently abandoned the scheme. Later on in 1919, when there was another agitation for the establishment of a technological institute, Government appointed another committee who drew up the scheme for a technical school and not a technological institute, and this technical school is going to cost more than double what was proposed for the technological institute. I must say, Sir, that it seems that the Government evidently took advantage of our ignorance as to the difference between a technical school and technological institute and perpetrated this cruel joke of foisting this technical school on us. The subject that are proposed to be taught here are mere theoretical ones and are being already taught in the Calcutta Evening School and the Sibpur Engineering College. What was the use of proposing to spend lakhs and lakhs on a scheme which gives no practical industrial training to our boys? When we are crying for bread we are being given stone.

In all the great technological institutes of Great Britain they have small model factories to give practical training in a large number of industries. The Ghose and Palit Science College of Calcutta is quite competent to open up work-shops for the training of practical industrialists. Manchester, Glasgow, London and other technological institutes of Great Britain have turned out thousands of young men thoroughly trained in practical industries, and we know that these men are developing industries all over the world. But here in Bengal, instead of having a technological institute for the practical training of experts for the manufacture of paper, sugar, pottery, glass, and other things for which there is abundant raw material, we are getting a technical school at a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs for the theoretical training of apprentices in such subjects as mathematics, applied mechanics, drawing, building construction, and so forth. Is this Council going to

allow the Government to spend such a large sum of money on this theoretical scheme? Instead of a proper technological institute with modern workshops, Government is giving us a mere technical school for the purpose of giving theoretical training in such subjects as I have mentioned just now. Now, what is the scheme going to cost us? As I have mentioned, Rs. 16 lakhs is going to be the capital expenditure and Rs. 1¼ lakhs recurring expenditure. In place of only Rs. 2,000 recurring grant which Government is paying just now, is it fair to saddle the country with this extra cost for a purpose which will practically do no good to the country? If we had one-fifth of the money, we could turn the Ghose and Palit Science College into a technological institute, training our young men in the practical working of such useful industries as paper-making, glass manufacture, sugar, pottery, etc.

Now, for this technical school only the land has been acquired and Rs. 8 lakhs has been spent on that. The present proposal is to surround the land with a wall. I have no quarrel with that proposal, but the whole thing must be nipped in the bud. This Council adopted a resolution urging the establishment of a technological institute. Let us sell this land, and with the money let us start a technological institute which will enable our young men to have real and proper training in the working of useful industries, and let us not simply remain as hewers of wood and drawers of water let us be the leaders of real industries in our own country.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I am really very much surprised to hear the remarks which have fallen from my friend, Mr. Dutta, about this technical institution in Calcutta. I would ask my friend in the Council not to be guided by the eloquence of my friend on this particular occasion at least. I happen to know something about this institution, for I was one of the members of the committee which was formed for the purpose of discussing this question of the establishment of a technical institution in Calcutta. My friend seems to think that because we cannot have a well-equipped technological institute in Calcutta, a technical school is no good. He forgets that very often we like to be rich but seldom attain our ambition. A technological institute is certainly a very desirable thing, but may I ask my friend to say what the University of Calcutta with all their efforts could do in that line during the last few years? On the other hand, I must candidly say that during the Governorship of Lord Ronaldshay, of the very few things which we have got, this is perhaps one of the best—the establishment of a technical institution in Calcutta.

My friend has taken exception to the association of a number of mercantile firms with this school. Perhaps he does not realise that without the co-operation of these mercantile firms a technical institution will be an impossibility. He forgets that apprentices will have to be taken, and they have to be educated, and their education must be of a practical nature. Book knowledge is good, but in technical things

book knowledge comes second to practical knowledge. That practical knowledge is only available in factories connected with such mercantile firms as Messrs. Burn & Co., Jessop & Co., and others. Calcutta is the only place where you can have a technical institution, and why? Because you have a number of mercantile firms with machinery yards and facilities for training our young men. If that be so, how can you have a technical institution without the co-operation of these merchants? Well, so far as I remember, these merchants were not very enthusiastic about our technical institution. It was with great difficulty that Government and the Committee could induce these merchants to agree to the proposal of starting this technical institution. The Railway Companies and others had various objections, but Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji, who was the President of that Committee, tactfully induced these merchants to co-operate with the Committee in establishing this technical institution in Calcutta. Much has already been done in this direction, and if now my friend with his eloquence persuades this Council to strike an axe at the root of this, it would be disastrous. I agree with him that there are very many good things on which money can be spent. I agree with him that a technological institute should be our goal, but I would ask my friend to consider whether, for the present, we should not be satisfied with the institution which is about to be established in Calcutta.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I am somewhat surprised to hear the last two speeches when two gentlemen of the same mind make two different speeches. Everybody knows that technical education is very good. But the question before the House is that a particular piece of land has been acquired for Rs. 8,00,000 and that Rs. 6,600 is required for putting up a wall round the land, so as to prevent the land being turned into a source of nuisance to the locality. If this is not done, the Hon'ble the Nawab Sahib might run the risk of a prosecution by the Corporation. We cannot allow this land to be a source of nuisance, and it is the rule that every land must be walled up in such a way as not to be a nuisance to the locality. That is the only question before us. We have got the land and that has to be walled up, and Rs. 6,600 is required for the purpose. I do not understand why all this question of technical education arises. The property is there and we have got to keep it in proper order, and I do not see why these divergent views should be expressed.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The question raised by Mr. Dutta of the value and utility of the Calcutta Technical School is irrelevant. All that I am asking for now is money to enable Government to comply with a requisition legally issued by the Calcutta Corporation. I, therefore, say nothing on the points raised by Mr. Dutta. They have been sufficiently replied to by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur.

The Government have acquired, for the construction of a technical school in Calcutta, a plot of land situated in Corporation Street. Up to the present, we have not been able to provide for starting a building and the land is lying vacant. Recently a notice was received from the District Health Officer, District III, under the Calcutta Corporation, requiring Government to enclose the land securely without delay. The Corporation can require Government to take this action under section 441 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, and we have therefore no choice but to comply with their requisition. I may explain that the wall in any case forms part of the main scheme for the building; it will be a permanent structure and the money will not be wasted. The estimate has been prepared by the officers of the Public Works Department and is incapable of any reduction. I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 6,569 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 22,' for the construction of temporary buildings for the Comilla Survey School, be reduced by Rs. 169."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 6,569 Rs. 3,500 under head '41.—Civil Works—Establishment—Scheme 25,' for the appointment of two Assistant Engineers, be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 3,500 under head '41.—Civil Works—sub-head Establishment—Scheme 25,' for the appointment of two Assistant Engineers, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 3,926 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 26,' be reduced by Rs. 216."

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '41.—Civil Works,' be refused."

The original motion that Rs. 2,42,699 be granted for expenditure under head "41.—Civil Works" was then put and agreed to.

46.—Stationery and Printing.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 500 be granted for expenditure under head "46.—Stationery and Printing."

I must apologise to the Council for putting this petty demand before it, but the fact is that in our zeal for economy, we cut down our original stationery estimate to the minimum, with the result that we cannot meet

any new demands without coming to the Council. The three small items which this demand covers are sufficiently explained in the supplementary estimates.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '46.—Stationery and Printing,' be refused."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

47.—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 25,000 be granted for expenditure under head "47.—Miscellaneous."

The whole of this sum is required for the upkeep of the Victoria Memorial. I may explain the circumstances in which this demand has been placed before the Council. So far back as 1904, soon after the building of the Memorial began, the Government of India promised to be responsible for the upkeep of the Memorial up to a maximum cost of Rs. 31,800 a year. That was the sum which it was supposed at that time it would cost to maintain the Memorial. The object of the Government of India in making this promise was to assure the subscribers that their contributions would be devoted to the building and beautifying of the Memorial and would not be spent in paying people like *malis*, *darwans*, etc. That, Sir, no doubt, appeared to the Government of India to be a very suitable course to pursue at the time, but the result is that the Trustees, now that the Memorial is completed, have absolutely no money for its upkeep. There is, of course, no endowment of any kind. Since 1904 two things have happened. In the first place, Calcutta is no longer the headquarters of the Government of India, and in the second place prices and wages, as everybody knows, have gone up enormously. The Government of India have nobly kept their promise to provide Rs. 31,800 annually for the upkeep of the Memorial, and their Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the demand for this the other day in circumstances which lead to the hope that the contribution can be relied upon as an annual contribution. But the Trustees tell us that this sum of Rs. 31,800 is entirely inadequate, and that as a matter of fact a sum of Rs. 43,776 is required for the staff alone—the staff which is employed on the Memorial and the grounds—leaving nothing at all for the repairs which will be necessary from time to time in a building of this character. The Trustees have earnestly considered various ways of raising money. They have, I think, everyone will agree, rightly rejected the idea of charging admission fees, except possibly on one day of the week, because any general levy of admission fees would make the Memorial less accessible to those who have a right to go there

and especially to the poorer classes. Moreover, any sum realised from fees would not be very large. In these circumstances, the Trustees felt that they were justified in asking the Government of Bengal to bear a portion of the expenditure involved in maintaining the Memorial.

His Excellency the Viceroy, speaking as head of the Trustees, said recently: "The Victoria Memorial is now necessarily more the particular pride and possession of Calcutta and of Bengal than of the whole of India." These words, Sir, I think, are very true. It would be a disgrace to Bengal and to Calcutta if this noble Memorial and its surroundings were allowed to fall into an unkempt and neglected state. Whether we like it or not, we, the Bengal Government and the Bengal Legislative Council, will be regarded by the civilised world as trustees for the upkeep of the Memorial in a decent condition and in surroundings worthy of its dignity. That is a responsibility, Sir, which we cannot evade. With some confidence, therefore, I ask the Council to vote this sum of Rs. 25,000.

Motions for reductions.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 25,000 for maintenance of the Victoria Memorial Hall under head "47.—Miscellaneous" be refused.

When I sent a notice of this amendment my idea was that this opportunity should be taken to point out to this Council that the Victoria Memorial after all is an Imperial affair. Sir, I find that I am quite right in this view. But, in view of what I have heard from the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr, I am quite prepared to agree with him that in the case of the Victoria Memorial we have also our obligations, and I for myself would like that the Victoria Memorial having been built in this city of which we are all proud, we should accord our vote of financial assistance towards its upkeep. In that view, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '47.—Miscellaneous' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

The following motion which stood in the name of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head '47.—Miscellaneous,' for the maintenance of the Victoria Memorial Hall, be reduced to Rs. 12,500."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head "47.—Miscellaneous—Scheme 1," for the maintenance of the Victoria Memorial Hall, be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

He delivered his speech in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows:—

I desire to express myself in Urdu, as in that case the Member in charge will be able to follow me. Sir, I am not a non-co-operator nor an anarchist. I am a loyal subject of His Majesty. The Imperial Legislative Assembly has granted the sum of Rs. 31,800 for the maintenance of the Victoria Memorial Hall. But, according to the opinion of the Trustees, Rs. 43,776 is required for the purpose. Thus it will be seen that Rs. 11,976 is wanting. If this deficit amount is granted by this Council, the requirement under this head may be met.

The members of the Board of Trustees seem to think a further sum may be necessary over and above the sum of Rs. 43,776. If the opinion of the Trustees is correct, why not demand Rs. 11,976 *plus* Rs. 8,024, that is to say Rs. 20,000, from this Government? I would, therefore, reduce the demand by Rs. 5,000.

Sir, in conclusion, let me observe that the late Queen Victoria was loved and respected by all, and so if Her Majesty had lived to watch the proceedings of this Council to-day, I am sure this paltry sum of Rs. 5,000 would have been transferred to some other cause, nobler, higher and loftier than this. Her Majesty's name is embedded in the mind of every Indian. When starvation stares us in the face, malaria saps our vitality, famine is rampant throughout the length and breadth of the country, it is high time that the name of Queen Victoria should be more conspicuously honoured, not by the erection or upkeep of a stately monument but by the diffusion of education, improvement of sanitation, and eradiction of malaria and other devastating diseases of the country.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 25,000 under head "47.—Miscellaneous," for the maintenance of the Victoria Memorial Hall, be reduced by Rs. 100.

I will say at once that I do not wish to press this motion, but I only wish to bring two points to the notice of the Hon'ble Member. The first is that the Government of India promised to supply Rs. 31,800, in the belief that this sum will be enough for the upkeep of the institution. Now that the expenses have gone up, may I request the Hon'ble Member to approach the Government of India again, explaining the situation and telling them that we must have some more money? The second point is that this Victoria Memorial Hall has been built in the city of Calcutta, and I know that Delhi is very anxious to take it, and that they would take it away if they could manage to do so. But as it is in Calcutta, I hope it is not really too much to ask the Calcutta Corporation to pay something towards its upkeep.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I may say, Sir, that the Trustees have already been in correspondence with the Government of India

and have laid the whole situation before them, but they do not show any signs of contributing anything more than Rs. 31,800—in fact, I understand, they have practically declined to do so. In these circumstances, as the Government of India have left Calcutta for good, we may consider ourselves fortunate to get Rs. 31,800 out of them.

As to the curtailment suggested by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, I am sorry I have not followed his figures fully, but I understood him to say that as the Trustees only want Rs. 44,000 roughly, why should we give them Rs. 56,000? As I explained, Rs. 44,000 is required for the establishment only. It leaves nothing for the planting of the gardens and for any repairs that may be necessary to the building. The repairs may be small at present, but, as everybody knows, a good deal of money will have to be spent in getting the gardens laid out, and I do not think that Rs. 25,000 is an excessive grant for us to give this year. We shall, however, be prepared to consider the amount of the grant which will be required in future years.

These motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head '47.—Miscellaneous' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 25,000 be granted for expenditure under head "47.—Miscellaneous" was then put and agreed to.

Expenditure in England—High Commissioner.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 1,42,234 be granted for expenditure under head "Expenditure in England—High Commissioner."

The most important item under this head is the sum of Rs. 1,37,000 for new printing machines. That, Sir, is entirely due to the proceedings of this Council. Last cold weather we had almost continuous sittings for three months and the Press could not cope with the work. The work got into a most congested state and the result was that the proceedings of the Council for the last session were not placed in the hands of members until a few days ago. That delay is most unfortunate and inconvenient and should not be allowed to go on. Mr. Spry and myself have gone into the matter carefully with the Superintendent of the Press, and we are convinced that the only solution is to get more machines. The cost will unfortunately be heavy, but that cannot be helped.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask a question? This demand is under the head "High Commissioner." What has the High Commissioner got to do with it?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: We shall send an indent for these machines to the High Commissioner in London, and he will purchase the machines for us. We have to make a provision in the budget under the head "High Commissioner" in order that he may draw money in London to pay the firms from whom he buys the machines.

Motions for reduction.

The fo ion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 1,42,234 under head 'Home charges—High Commissioner's Budget—Scheme 4,' be reduced by Rs. 71,117."

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head "Expenditure in England—High Commissioner,' be refused."

The original demand was then put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move that a sum of Rs 50,000 be granted for expenditure under head "Loans and Advances.'

It is a very small matter. The District Board of Dinajpur wanted a loan of Rs. 50,000 for making a bridge, and the Government has sanctioned the loan.

Motion for reduction.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: "That the demand for expenditure under head 'Loans and Advances,' be refused."

The original demand was then put and agreed to

Transfer of Grants.

35.—Industries (Reserved).

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 5,320 provided under head "35.—Industries," for the staff and contingent expenditure of the Industrial Intelligence Officer, be transferred to head "22.—General Administration."

This is purely a formal mater and I am not asking for any more money. It is only a transfer from one head to another. The reason is that up till a short time ago we had an Industrial Intelligence Officer who was supposed to deal with indigenous industries as well as with labour matters. We found that owing to the labour unrest which has unfortunately prevailed recently, this officer had no time to attend to industrial matters and he has consequently now become a whole-time labour officer. The Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri naturally objects to paying an officer over whom he has no control, and so I move that the pay of the staff of the officer should now be transferred to the Commerce Department under the head "22.—General Administration."

The motion was put and agreed to.

35.—Industries (Transferred).

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I move that a sum of Rs. 11,200 be transferred from non-voted to voted under "35.—Industries—Technical and Industrial Schools—Salaries," on account of the salary of the Principal, Serampore Weaving Institute.

The necessity for this transfer has been fully explained in the memorandum which has been circulated to members. Mr. Hoogewerf's pay has hitherto been shown as "non-voted" because Mr. Hoogewerf is appointed to be Principal of the Serampore Weaving Institute by the Secretary of State. It has, however, been ascertained that at the time when the Secretary of State sanctioned Mr. Hoogewerf's appointment, he was residing, in Bombay. Therefore, as he was recruited in India, his salary should be shown as voted. I, therefore, ask the Council to vote the transfer of this grant to the "voted" head of "35.—Industries" Budget.

The motion was put and agreed to.

41.—Civil Works.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 76,000 be transferred from "41.—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid" to "22.—General Administration" on account of grants for petty local works of improvement.

This also is purely a formal matter. It has been decided that these petty grants will now always be debited under the head "General Administration."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a total sum of Rs. 21,21,649, provided under the several major heads on account of revision of ministerial establishment, be transferred from non-voted to voted.

I am glad at least to be able to ask the House to give effect to this long-pending proposal for the revision of the pay of the ministerial officers in Bengal. It is just about a year ago that we received the report of the Committee which inquired into the subject. The Committee necessarily went into the matter on broad lines, and when we came to deal with the individual cases of the many thousand officers concerned, we found that a good many points cropped up which could not be settled without further reference to District Officers and District Judges. Then the sanction of the Government of India to the scheme had to be obtained and that took some time. We propose to give retrospective effect to the scheme from the 1st of January last, so that the ministerial officers will, I hope, draw by the 1st of next month—if not certainly by the 1st of September—very considerable additions to the emoluments which they have hitherto received.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Home Charges.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 4,000 provided in the Budget of the Secretary of State under "Forest—Sundry items" be transfered to the High Commissioner's estimates.

This also is purely a formal matter. The Council has already passed this grant to be spent by the Secretary of State, but we now find that it will be spent by that mysterious official, the "High Commissioner." Hence this motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

33.—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 18,000 provided under "33.—Public Health" for publicity work be transferred to "22.—General Administration."

This is purely a formal matter, but I want the Council to be quite clear as to what we intend doing. The Council will remember that last March in the main budget we voted a sum of Rs. 97,000 for publicity work in Bengal. The pay of the Publicity Officer and his staff amounted to Rs. 45,000 and was provided for in the General Administration Budget. But Sir Henry Wheeler explained to the Council that it was intended that, for the present at any rate, a large part of the Publicity Officer's work would be connected with the transferred departments.

Accordingly, we put down Rs. 18,000 in the Public Health Budget, Rs. 17,000 in the Agricultural Budget, and another Rs. 17,000 in the Industries Budget for the work of the Publicity Officer. We thought at that time that we were quite clever in doing so and that everything would go smoothly, but unfortunately the Accountant-General was not at all pleased with our action. He has pointed out that it is entirely contrary to the Accounts Rules to debit the expenditure of an officer under several major heads and also that this arrangement gives a good deal of unnecessary trouble to his office. The Accountant-General is an authority to whom we must all bow, and so we have to come to the Council to get the grants transferred to the General Administration head. It has been suggested to me that the result of our action will be that Mr. Stephenson will be able to misappropriate these sums which were intended for the transferred departments. Mr. Stephenson is not here to-day, but I may say on his behalf that nothing of the kind is intended. I may also say on my own behalf that if Mr. Stephenson tries to play any tricks of this kind, we, in the Finance Department, will be able to stop him. It is purely a formal accounts matter and I ask the Council to accept it as such.

The motion was put and agreed to.

34.—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 17,000 provided under "34.—Agriculture" for publicity work be transferred to "22.—General Administration."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: As Mr. Stephenson is not here, may I inquire what authority Sir John Kerr has to move it?

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I have got the authority of His Excellency the Governor. As I have just explained, this is purely a formal matter. This sum of Rs. 17,000 will be spent for publicity work in the Agricultural Department, but it is necessary for accounts purposes to transfer it to the proper head.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR: I move that a sum of Rs. 17,000 provided under "35.—Industries" for publicity work be transferred to "22.—General Adminstration."

The motion was put and agreed to.

Prorogation.

The **DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Gentlemen, I am desired to inform the members that His Excellency declares the Council prorogued. It is probable that the next session will commence on the 23rd of August. I may remind the members that fresh notice is required of all resolutions which have not so far been moved. Members need not re-write the resolutions, and it will be sufficient if they indicate the numbers of the resolutions as they appear in the Appendix to the List of Business.

The members then dispersed.

R. S. Press—2-9-1922—11253J—2,000—A. F. A

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